CHAPTER III
FORTS IN BIDAR DISTRICT

One of the first innovations of civilization seems to be the growth of fortifications. The erection of a physical barrier between oneself and an anticipated enemy is the basic concept of fortification\textsuperscript{1}. The nature of barrier changes with reference to the thing to be protected and the danger to it perceived by its protector. For example the object of protection could be a temporary camp and the danger apprehended might be of wild animals; or it could be a whole city and an army equipped with artillery might pose a problem. In the case of former, a train of carriages chained to each other and small screen of tough branches or bamboo in between would be enough, whereas a strong wall of considerable height and thickness would be needed in the case of latter.

In the constant struggle for power, forts and fortified settlements were a potent symbol of authority. Thus, in ancient India as elsewhere, forts were the measure of Monarch's strength. There are many references to Forts and fortifications in ancient and medieval literature dating from the Vedic times. The Rigveda Samhita mentions tribes living in fortifications called Pur, meaning earthworks strengthened by stonewalls. The Aiteraya Brahmana refers to the three Agnis, or fires, as three forts, which prevent the Asuras (demons) from disturbing the sacrifice. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata also contain account of forts, and the Puranas state that the rampart and ditch are the important elements in the fortification of a castle.\textsuperscript{2}
Forts played a crucial role in the protection of a region or territory. A significant characteristic of defense in Ancient and Medieval times was the construction of forts in important cities and places of strategic value. In fact, it can be said that the entire land of India is studded with magnificent fortresses from where kings are said to have ruled. Though the primary motive of building forts was for military operations, the impact of forts on the political and administrative matters was more profound. ³

The fortification is thus static; purely defensive in purpose and is in the nature of a well thought out reaction to a given set of circumstances.⁴ The importance of forts can also be seen in providing shelter and security to various administrative establishments and protection of wealth. While commenting on the utility of forts the ancient Indian Hindu lawgiver Manu says, “a warrior protected by the fort can fight with hundred enemy soldiers and a force of one hundred fighting from the fort can encounter ten thousand enemy soldiers”.⁵ Similarly, while stating the significance of forts for a king, Manu further adds that just as animals like deer need not fear the hunter if they take shelter, in the same way the king in a fort too can remain protected from the invader.⁶ The term fort, in ordinary usage implies stronghold offering protection and security to the inhabitants who seek refuge in it. In Sanskrit it is known as Durga, which means hard to approach or difficult to access.⁷

The Vedic literature also alludes on forts, for the Rig Veda mentions Agni and Indra as “Destroyer of forts”. It calls the latter as “Demolisher of forts”. Even the kalika Purana gives more stress on the construction of forts by
Kauṭilya’s saptanga or the seven-element theory for a state imparts a very crucial role for forts in defending the empire. Sometimes forts were constructed to demonstrate strength and it was considered as a symbol of pride and prestige.

**Forts in Ancient India.**

Three major methods were used for the construction of ancient Indian forts. The first consisted of earthen ramparts. Often they were constructed of the sand which was dug out of the ditch surrounding the fort. The second of rubble with earth on the outside which was more sturdy. The third type of construction was with stone and masonry work. The last was the strongest. Often materials from demolished forts were reused in the building of new forts.¹⁰

By 4th century BCE, fortified cities were common in India. The largest ones were between the city of Mathura (on the Yamuna river) and Magadha (on the Ganges). Another series of forts in the south, was on the Ujjain (on the Narmada) leading into the Deccan. These are inferred by the remains of fort walls and bastions seen on excavation at Rajagriha and at several sites in the Gangetic plain notably Kaushambi. At the latter site huge walls of burnt brick, which look like they have been battered. There does not seem to be any formal planning of these forts.¹¹

There are few descriptions of these ancient structures. The most noted is the one by Megasthenes, an ambasaddor of Seleucus I Nicator to the court of Chandragupta Maurya. He describes Patliputra as being guarded by a ditch with wooden walls. The fort had 570 towers and 54 gates with colonnaded
halls decorated with gold and silver. One such hall has been excavated and is one of the oldest stone structures in India.\(^\text{12}\)

**Types of Forts recommended my jurists and Law givers of Ancient India.**

Though most of the structures have been decayed and are lost, India's legacy of ancient forts is seen mostly in the shastras (ancient Indian treatises) and in the reliefs on stupas.\(^\text{13}\) On some of the early relief work, the carvings indicate that ancient Indian forts has crenellations, embrasures and sloping walls.\(^\text{14}\) The Arthashastra the Indian treatise on military strategy describes six major types of forts differentiated by their major mode of defense, they are as follows\(^\text{15}\)

1. **Jal durg:** a fortress surrounded by water, also known as *audaka-durga* and *ab-durga*. There are two subtypes - the island fortress, or *antardvipa-durga*, and the plain fortress or *sthala-durga*.

2. **Giri durga:** Giri-durga, or *parvata-durga*, is a hill or mountain fortress. There are three varieties of such forts; *prantara-durga*, *giri-parshva-durga* and *guha-durga*. *Prantara-durga* is a fortress built on the summit (usually flat) of a hill or a mountain. In *giri-parshva-durga* both major civilian structures and fortifications extend down the slope of a hill or mountain though the summit is certainly included into the defense system, too. The living quarters of a *guha-durga* fortress are situated in a valley surrounded by high, impassable hills.

3. **Vana durg** or *vrikshya-durga*, would be surrounded on all sides with a dense, impassable forest over a distance of at least 4 kroshas (14.6 km). Variations were the *khanjana-durga*, built on fens and encircled with thorny
woods, and the *sthambha-durga*, erected in the jungles among high trees but lacking sufficient sources of water.

4. **Dhanu durg** *Dhanvana, dhanva* or *maru-durga* are desert fortresses usually to be found in an arid area bare of trees, grass or sources of water over a distance of no less than 5 *yojanas* (73 km), hence its other name, *nirudaka-durga*, or waterless fortress.

5. **Mahi-durg** There are three types of mahi-durga or earth fortress. *Mrid-durga* are encircled with earthen walls; the approaches to *panka-durga* are protected by fens or quicksand; and *parigha-durga* are surrounded by walls made of earth and stone or brick, their height exceeding 5.4m and their width constituting half of the height.

6. **Nar-durg** or fortress with men, was defended by a large and loyal army of proven warriors, and was well supplied with arms. It was usually a city fortress, well populated with a substantial garrison. It was also called *nara-durga* and *bala-durga*.

   Each type of fortress had different advantages. Manu (author of the Manusmriti the Vedic text) considered the hill forts offer the best defenses. Some Sanskrit text also consider hill forts to be the abode of gods and hence auspicious. Manu also considers the disadvantages of other fortresses. A fortress surrounded by water often sheltered reptiles and snakes, which made for a rapid spread of disease; on the other hand, reptiles and snakes could deter an assault on a fortress, and disease could force the enemy to lift a siege. Earth fortresses often swarmed with rats and rodents, which might in
the long run eat away their foundations. Monkeys plagued the inhabitants of arboreal fortresses, while a fortress that housed a lot of people had to be kept well supplied with food and water to feed all those mouths. However, the Mahabharata considers Nri-durga to be the best defensive structures.\textsuperscript{16}

With the advent of the Muslims, closely followed by the introduction of artillery in the 16\textsuperscript{th} century there were several changes to the construction and design of forts. These changes were similar to the changes that took place in Western forts with the advent of gunpowder, i.e. the lowering of walls, thickening of walls, further pushing out of bastions etc.\textsuperscript{17} The construction of a citadel in the centre and putting in more area between the citadel and the walls was characteristic of Muslim forts (influenced in turn by the Norman motte and bailey). Classic examples of such structures are the Golkonda and the Berar fort.\textsuperscript{18}

The gates of medieval Indian forts were highly decorated.\textsuperscript{19} Two distinct styles are seen, the Hindu style with a lintel and the Mughal style with an arch. Gates in Indian forts were often high and wide to allow elephants to pass.\textsuperscript{20} Often they had rows of sharp, stout iron spikes to dissuade the breaking down of the gate by the elephants of an invading army.\textsuperscript{21} Such a gate with spikes can be seen on the Shaniwar wada fort, Pune. The walls of the forts were often looked higher from the outside than the inside as the forts made use of the natural rock formations on hills. This not only gave an illus ion of greater height but also lead to the lower walls of the fort to be entirely made
up of natural rock providing almost a perfect defense against the use of a battering ram or elephants to tear down the walls.\(^{22}\)

**Construction of the Forts**

Stone was the main material for building fortifications in medieval India. Walls were erected by one of the following three construction methods:

A wall could be an earthen rampart faced with stone on both sides. The rampart was built using the earth excavated while digging the ditch, with three-quarters of it used for building a rampart and one-quarter for levelling out the surface inside the fortress and in front of the ditch. Facing the rampart with stone allowed for the erection of higher and steeper walls than those possible with a purely earthen rampart. The structure had a substantial shortcoming, however: an earthen core accumulated water, which could destroy the stone shell. Drainage channels were therefore installed along the length of the wall from top to bottom.\(^ {23}\)

The second method consisted of filling the space between the outer layers with earth mixed with rubble. This core was considerably harder than simply using rammed earth. The third and most advanced method involved the use of mortar. A rubble-built wall fastened with mortar was strong and long lasting. Construction methods depended, however, on the materials available.\(^ {24}\)

In medieval India, several reports exist of the practice of burying humans either dead or alive in the foundations of fort walls, to ensure their stability, being widely followed. It was believed that the ghosts of those sacrificed as such would keep evil spirits away.\(^ {25}\)
I. FORTS IN BIDAR DISTRICT.

i. Bidar Fort and Monuments within fort and Town Fortification

As discussed in preceding chapter i.e., History of Bidar district, Mayurkhandi in the present day Basavakalyan Taluk in Bidar district was the first Rashtrakuta capital later on Western Chalukyas, Kalachuris continued with Kalyani as their capital. Later, Bidar was ruled in succession by the vassals to Sevuna, Yadavas of Devagiri, Kakatiyas of Warangal, Bahmanis and Barid Shahis. The Bidar Sultanate was absorbed by the Bijapur Sultanate in 1619, which was in turn included into their Deccan province by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb during his viceroyalty of Deccan in 1656. After the death of Aurangzeb, Asaf Jah I, the Mughal Subehdar of the Deccan province, became independent and assumed the title Nizam-ul-mulk, with the whole of the province under the Nizam's sovereign control. As such, Bidar District has strategic forts at Bidar, Basawakalyan, Bhalki, Bhatambra, Hanakuni and Morkhandi.

In describing the monuments of Bidar, the fort is dealt with first, as it contains some buildings which were the earliest to be erected when Ahmad Shah Wali Bahmani transferred the seat of government from Gulbarga to Bidar in C.E. 1429. The next group of monuments comprises the buildings of the town including the fortifications, a large number of which are coeval with the buildings of the fort. The third group embraces the tombs and shrines at Ashtur, which were erected by the Bahmani kings from C.E. 1436 to 1535. The Barid Shahi tombs and the mausoleums in their vicinity constitute the fourth group, while the fifth, or last, group includes all monuments of historical,
religious, or architectural significance situated within a distance of six miles from Bidar. This order is chronological to a certain extent. But in describing the monuments individually of each group, it has been considered expedient to follow the order of their location along the road or the foot path, so that the visitor may see the monuments continuously without going to and fro, as would have been necessary, if a strictly chronological plan had been followed. Then followed alphabetically with place name of taluks where the forts exist in Bidar district.

The Fort Enclave and Monuments in Bidar Fort.

It is known that there was a fort at Bidar with a double line of defenses when Prince Ulugh Khan conquered the place. What the form or the extent of this was, it is difficult to determine exactly now. Tradition, however, says that it occupied the western area of the present fort, from the Kalmadgi Gate to the Takht Mahal site, including the projection on which Virasangayya's temple is now built. The large tank would thus have stood at the ft of the old fort, which would have been also defended on three sides by natural precipices. Fragmentary inscriptions, carved blocks of masonry and architectural parts, such as pillars, capitals, and brackets, have been found in abundance in clearing the above area. The tradition is further confirmed by a statement made by Firishta that Ahmad Shah Wali built the Government House (Dar-ul-Imara) at a site where the old fort of Bidar stood in ancient times. The Dar-ul-Imara is now called the Takht Mahall or the Throne Palace.26

The building of the city and fort of Bidar commenced some time in 1429 C.E, and completed in 1432 C.E. It was built of stone and mortar and
engineers and architects of various countries were employed on its design and construction. The form of the fort apparently consisted of long stretches of massive walls defended by a moat, which was excavated from the rock on which the fort stood. The moat was apparently the work of Hindu masons, while the massive walls constructed of stone and mortar were designed and built by Persian and Turkish architects employed by Ahmad Shah Wali. The fortifications of Bidar were rebuilt during the reign of Nizam Shah Bahmani (1461-63 C.E.), but perhaps no great change was made in their original character until the time of Muhammad Shah Bahmani.27

Although in contemporary records, there is no direct reference to the rebuilding of the defenses of Bidar fort during the reign of Muhammad Shah. There is no doubt that this king, who was anxious to rebuild even minor forts in his territory, must have planned afresh and remodeled the fortifications of his capital. There is both historical and epigraphic evidence to show that some additions to the defenses of the fort were made by Mahmud Shah Bahmani,28 but they were apparently of a minor character. Improvements on a large scale, however, may have been made during the reign of Ali Barid (1642-80 C.E), who mounted guns, made under his express command at various vulnerable points of the fort. In 1628 C.E, Malik Marjan the Adil Shahi governor repaired the walls and bastions of the fort29 and later, Mughal commander Mukhtar Khan al-Husaini re-erected, plated and bossed in iron almost all the gates of Bidar.30 Thus after 1656 C.E, when Aurangzeb annexed Bidar to the Mughal empire, no substantial changes were been made in its fortifications, though
repaired and slight additions made during the occupation of the fort by rulers of other dynasties in subsequent years.\textsuperscript{31}

Bidar fort is an irregular rhomboid in shape, built on the brink of the plateau with steep sides towards the north and east. On other sides, where the ground level was lower than the adjoining lands, a moat has been excavated in the form of a triple channel with partition walls hewn out of the solid rock. These rock partitions are a special feature of the Bidar fort and their long stretches present a grim appearance. The width of the moat between the glacis and the first partition wall is 32 feet 6 inches, between the first and second partition walls 36 feet 4 inches, and between the second partition-wall and the scarp 41 feet 9 inches. The depth of the moat is 30 feet, and the height of the scarp above the rock-base on which it is built varies from 32 feet 8 inches to 43 feet.\textsuperscript{32}

The moat and the glacis encircle the fort on all sides, but the rock partitioned triple channel exists towards the city side only that is towards the southeast, the south, and the south-west. The external circumference of the defenses of the fort is two and a half miles. There are thirtyseven bastions and seven gates, besides the main entrance from the city side. The names of the gates from east to west are as follows: \textsuperscript{33}

1. The Mandu Darwaza,
2. The Kalmadgi Darwaza,
3. Anonymous,
4. Anonymous,
5. The Delhi Darwaza,
6. The Kalyanj Darwaza, and
7. The Carnatic Darwaza.

Some of the bastions are most massively built and they are generally round or octagonal in shape. A few bastions are, however, square in design. The parapets are honeycombed with machicoulis providing facilities for firing muskets as well as cannon, both at close and long range. The walls near the main entrance appear to have been breached and rebuilt at various periods; the old portions consist of large blocks of stone laid in lime, but the joints are so fine that the lime is not visible. The later portions are built of smaller blocks, but the joints in the masonry are not so fine and the line of mortar is conspicuous between the courses. The stone used is trap, which is not found locally, and must have been brought from quarries in the Gulbarga district. The transport of trap stone sufficient for the construction of the entire fort must have been an undertaking involving both special organization and enormous expense.34

There was originally a drawbridge over the moat in front of the first gate of the main approach, but it does not exist now and the moat at this point has been filled up for the construction of the road. The first gateway is somewhat weak in appearance; if the inscription carved on the door is to be interpreted literally, it was built by Mukhtar Khan al-Husaini, the Mughal governor, in C.E. 1683. The height of the gateway up to the top of the parapet is 36 feet, while the entrance arch is 19 feet high and has a span of 12 feet 4 inches. The two small turrets built in front of the parapet over this gateway are incongruous and appear to be later additions. The door of the gateway is fitted with spikes and
knobs of iron for protection against attack by elephants. The passage through the gateway measures 24 feet 9 inches in length and the roof is vaulted. It is divided into two compartments by an arch which is built in the middle of the passage.\textsuperscript{35}

Beyond the first gateway, which faces the northeast, there is a small court and another gateway, which faces east-north-east. The first gateway thus serves the purpose of a barbican for the second. The court has rooms for guards on either side, the arches of the rooms on the left side are somewhat squat in proportions, having a span of 14 feet 9 inches with a height of 9 feet 1 inch only. The second gateway is called the \textbf{Sharza Darwaza} (Sherza Darwaza) on account of the effigies of two tigers carved on its facade.\textsuperscript{36}

The Sharza Darwaza is larger in dimensions than the first gateway, its height up to the top of the parapet being 34 feet 3 inches, and the height of the entrance arch 22 feet 7 inches with a span of 17 feet 5 inches. But its facade being covered over with lime plaster and further decorated with tile-work, however lovely in design, lacks vigour and strength, which should be the dominating features of a military building. The top of the gateway was originally decorated with a beautiful parapet of trefoil design, the face of which was adorned with encaustic tiles presenting green and blue patterns tastefully relieved by yellow and white bands. At either end of this parapet stood a slender turret, which was emblazoned with tile-work of chevron design. The tile work of the original parapet has decayed considerably, but wherever it is intact the colours are extremely fresh and charming.\textsuperscript{37}
Below this parapet there is a long panel of black stone covering the entire forehead of the gateway and containing an inscription, which records the building of the gateway in C.E 1503, during the reign of Mahmud Shah Bahmani, by Saif Khan Kotwalbek. There were other inscriptions along this band on the foreheads of the side bastions, but as they were inscribed on tiles they have largely perished. The few pieces which are intact on the left bastion show that the inscriptions were in white on a deep blue background. The following few words may still be read on the left bastion:

"Waiting at the royal court ... the second ... its solid foundations (were laid) by Saif Khan. the second . . . the portico of the royal court." 38

The Sharza Darwaza has a naqqar khana (music gallery) in its upper parts, to which access may be had from the steps built at the back of the guards' rooms near the inner arch of the Darwaza. The entrance room is rectangular in plan and from it, through a domical chamber; the main apartments of the music gallery are reached. These are three in number the middle one is crowned by a dome and the side ones have shallow vaults, which are concealed in the thickness of the roof. The dimensions of these apartments are insignificant, their total length being 49 feet 3 inches, but the plasterwork of their vaults is very beautiful, and some of the bands seem to have been copied from woodwork. The side apartments have semi-octagonal projections towards the front, which are pierced by tiny windows fitted with black stone frames and thick iron doors, the latter being decorated with knobs and stars. The windows command views of the lands adjoining the fort from
which an enemy could make an attack. Some of the openings of these
apartments are filled up with trelliswork of elegant designs.  

On the left stretches the line of ramparts, interspersed with bastions
and having a passage along the battlements for the use of the garrison firing
at, and hurling missiles on, the enemy at the time of a siege. To the north-west
stands the **Gumbad Darwaza**, the most massive structure. The distance
between the Sharza Darwaza and the Gumbad Darwaza is considerable, but
they are connected by a broad passage, which is defended on both sides by
low curtains of massive construction.

The architecture of the Gumbad Darwaza forms an important landmark
in the history of the monuments of the Deccan. Its battering walls, its low arch-
shaped parapet, its fluted corner turrets (guldastas) and its hemispherical
dome are all reminiscent of the contemporary (14th-15th centuries) architecture
of Delhi. But, the shape of its outer arch with its significant stilt and the
proportions of its span and its altitude disclose that Persian influence which
gradually became more and more prominent in the buildings of the Deccan.
The span of this arch is 29 feet and the height up to the apex 39 feet 8 inches,
but the springing points being low, the general appearance of the arch is
somewhat squat.

The entrance of the Gumbad Darwaza is through a recessed arch of
much smaller dimensions than the outer one and it is fitted with doors plated
and bossed with iron. The thickness of the walls, combining the depths of both
arches, is 22 feet 3 inches, and they rise to a height of 45 feet, above which
the dome is built. The internal diameter of the dome is 38 feet, the external 48 feet, thus showing a thickness of 10 feet in the masonry of the dome. The interior of the gateway has platforms on either side of the passage for the accommodation of guards.\textsuperscript{42}

From its style of architecture the gateway seems to be of the earliest period, and it is not unlikely that it was built by Ahmad Shah Wali when he laid the foundations of the fort in C.E. 1429. The bastions adjoining the front of this gateway seem to be later additions, built at different periods according to the exigencies of the times. Architecturally they are not welded into the main body of the building, as they cover portions of the original wall and appear as if superimposed. The bastion on the right is barrel shaped, while that on the left is circular, the latter is more massive and perhaps of later date. For the defense of the right side another bastion, octagonal in shape, has been built in front of the cylindrical one. At some distance along this road, first a bastion is noticed in two stages, each equipped with machicoulis. Farther on there is a tower, which commands a complete view of the city walls and the lowlands in the southeast as well as of the fort ramparts towards the southwest. The interior of the tower is beautifully finished with plasterwork. The plan of the building is square at the base, measuring 11 feet 6 inches each way. The ceiling is domical, with ribs in imitation of a wooden structure. There are remains of halls on either side of the tower, towards the southwest and northeast. At a lower level, from this tower towards the northwest there are
some rooms, the walls of which are extremely thick, with arches heavy in proportion but stilted at the top.\textsuperscript{43}

Further on, the road leads to the \textbf{Large Gun Bastion}, which stands by the side of the Mandu Gate. This bastion is most massively built, and in its construction large blocks of masonry have been used. It has two stages; the lower is loopholed for the use of minor fire arms including cannon of small size, while the upper is mounted with a magnificent specimen of ordnance, bearing the name of Ali Barid, during whose time (C.E 1542-80) the bastion was apparently built and the gun made. Its dimensions are 14 ft. 9 inches in length, Bore 1 ft. 7 inches, diameter near the muzzle 3 ft. 6 inches and circumference near the butt 11 ft 9 inches.\textsuperscript{44}

The gun has a highly polished surface that has become rough here and there and is built of bars of laminated metal, bound with hoops which have been welded together beautifully. The size and the finish of this gun show that very high scientific knowledge and technical skill in the manufacture of guns had been acquired in the Deccan. The bastion commands an extensive view of the lowlands toward the east, and this large gun was apparently used for long-range firing.\textsuperscript{45}

Adjoining the bastion towards the northwest are the barbicans of the Mandu Gate, which opens on the moat and faces the north. The barbicans are in two stages, the upper one is a little lower than the ramparts of the fort, and is equipped with machicoulis for the use of both large and small firearms. The curtains of the upper barbican have been built in haste, for carved slabs
originally belonging to other buildings seem to have been indiscriminately used in the construction of the curtains. But, notwithstanding this haphazard selection of stones, the curtains are most massively built and are circular in plan so that the garrison might be able to shoot from all angles.46

Steps from the upper barbican lead down to the lower one, which has almost the same arrangement, except for the existence of a narrow arcade along the line of battlements. As the level of the barbican at this stage is almost the same as that of the glacis, a roofed protection was necessary for the garrison when defending the fort from the lower stage. For further protection the passage which leads to the entrance has been built in a zigzag manner so that it could be choked with live coal or other materials at any point.47

From the Large Gun Bastion the road proceeds in a northwesterly direction and at a distance excellent views of the ruins of the fort may be had from the ramparts. After going some distance the Kalmadgi Gate is reached in the construction of this, special precautionary measures have been observed as the descent to the adjoining ground is not very steep at that point. The passage to the gateway is through a tunnel cut in the rock, but before entering it the visitor should not miss seeing the beautifully carved pillars of Hindu design which support the roof of a room built above the tunnel.48

The passage through the rock is 12 feet wide and 126 feet long, and at its end it has a rectangular opening which was once fitted with a door, as the sockets above the opening indicate. The opening leads into an S-shaped court
which is 233 feet in length and varies in width from 23 to 44 feet at different points, the court is defended by lofty and massive bastions. At the northern end is an arcade fitted, with machicoulis both at the top and the bottom so that the garrison could discharge fire-arms from two levels. At both its eastern and western ends, the court has steps which lead to another line of fortifications (parkota) at a lower level. The passage between this line of fortification and the line behind is narrow. At the southern end the passage has steps which lead down to a gate facing the east and having a barbican built in front of it for protection, at its western end it abuts on a small court which has a gate at the northwest corner. The gate opens upon the moat. The various lines of fortifications in defence of the two openings of the gate referred to above are so arranged that the progress of an enemy could be checked at various points in his attempt to enter the fort. 49

Proceeding farther westward along the road is the enclosure of the Purana Qila (Old Fort). The defenses inside the Qila are all of the Muslim period, but as the site may originally have been occupied by the old Hindu fort, the name Purana Qila has survived. The enclosure wall has two entrances, one leading to a Darwaza, the name of which is not known with certainty now and the other to the interior of the Purana Qila. The archway giving access to the anonymous Darwaza has been blocked up, but that leading to the interior of the Purana Qil'a is open, which is of small dimensions, although on the inner side it is defended by a massive bastion. 50
The outer arch of the entrance to this **Anonymous Darwaza** from the interior of the fort is most massively built, although it is rather narrow at the top. It is 12 feet 8 inches and the height up to the apex 18 feet. The passage beyond this entrance is hewn through the rock and has been given a slope in order to reach the level of the moat to which it leads. After a little distance it passes under three massive arches, which are 16 feet 6 inches and which have no imposts, the arch-heads springing from the rock on either side. These three arches were connected by a common roof, which has fallen. Beyond this point the passage continues, with abrupt turns, for a distance, when a second gateway is reached. Both the outer and inner arches of this gateway show a fine sense of proportion and the inner arch which is open now is 12 feet 9 inches and a height up to the apex of 22 feet 9 inches. Above this arch there was originally a frieze on which Quranic texts were carved in an artistic manner. Some of the slabs of the frieze are still intact and these have been conserved by the Archaeological Department. The left side of the arch had fallen down and has been rebuilt. Between the two arches of this gateway there were rooms at either side of the passage, for the accommodation of the guards.  

Passing through this gateway the passage leads to a court, almost circular in plan, which is defended on the moat side by a double arcade, arranged in two storeys. The arcade has ample accommodation for guards, while at its back it is provided with loopholes in both the upper and lower stages, which could be used for attacking the enemy in time of siege. At the
southeast end of the court, there is an arched gateway which opens on the moat. ¹⁵²

In the interior of the Purana Qila (Old Fort), there are no traces of quarters for guards, but the passage along the battlements is wider so that troops could go up there in larger numbers for the purpose of defense. In the northern part of the Qila, behind the ramparts, another line (traverse) had been built up apparently to enfilade attacking columns. From the bastion at the extreme north point of the Qila to the Kalyani Burj in the west, the line of ramparts has been doubled. ¹⁵³

The bastion at the northern point has been most massively built, and in its lower stage it has a parkota (barbican) from which fire could be opened on an enemy making an attack from the lowlands. On the bastion is mounted a fine piece of ordnance, bearing the name Fath-i-Lashkar (triumph of the army) and the date 988 H. (C.E. 1580). ¹⁵⁴ It is smaller in size than the Large Gun. In going round the traverse the road makes a loop and descends to a lower level, where the remains of two gun foundries and an old well may be seen. The well is very deep, its bottom being on a level with the bed of the tank, which is situated below the precipice towards the south. A pipeline had been laid from the well, traces of which may still be seen along the edge of the plateau. ¹⁵⁵

To complete the circuit of the fort, the road should be left and have to descend from the Purana Qila by the flight of steps, which are cut in the rock to the side of the path, which goes along the margin of the tank. The roof of this rock-hewn staircase is lined with masonry in the form of an arch. After
descending from the steps, one should proceed in a northwesterly direction until he climbs to the higher ground running parallel to the counter scarp. At the southwestern end of this is a slope, which leads to the inner entrance of the Delhi Darwaza. This is of small dimensions, but is fitted with a massive door. To the left of the entrance is the mouth of a big drain, called the Jumna Mori, through which the rainwater flowed from the lowlands of the fort to the nullahs (taps) outside it.  

Beyond this entrance is a court defended by walls, and another gate which faces the north-east. The court and the line of fortifications round it serve the purpose of a barbican for the inner entrance of the Delhi Darwaza. In the walls of the court some carved stones from old buildings have been used. They bear floral designs, figures of deities, acrobatic performances, and hunting scenes. The entrance of the Delhi Darwaza has a Ѓ-shaped plan, the passage first going straight and then turning to the right. The arches of this entrance are of small dimensions, but they show a fine sense of proportion, and the masonry used in the building is neatly dressed.

From the court of the Delhi Darwaza a good view of the Kalyani Burj may be had. It stands to the west of the Darwaza and rises to a height of about 100 feet from the level of the court. It is constructed in three stages which are defended by curtains and have ample space for the accommodation of troops. A flight of steps from the court leads to the apartments built below the bastion in the first stage. The apartments may have been used for the accommodation of the guard posted at the Delhi Darwaza or they may have
been utilized for storing arms. The masonry of the Kalyani Burj shows that it has been built from the material of old buildings, for the stones are of different varieties and some of them are sculptured.  

The style of architecture is, however, massive the top of the bastion commands a good view of the country towards the north and the tableland towards the west, the latter being almost on a level with the plateau on which the fort had been built. The bastion also offers an excellent view of the double line of the fortifications from the Delhi Darwaza to the Purana Qila. This bastion must originally have been mounted with a long-range gun, which is now missing and an insignificant piece, bearing the maker's name, is lying in its place. It appears that he flourished during the reign of Nawab Nizam Ali Khan Bahadur, the second Nizam of Hyderabad, who ruled from C.E. 1763 to 1803.  

Farther south is situated the Petla Burj (the Fat belly Bastion), so called on account of its curtains and base protruding prominently from the main line of fortifications. It rises some 83 feet higher than the Kalyani Burj, it has a parkota (barbicans built below bation), which defends the passage leading to the Kalyani Darwaza. The entrance to the passage from the interior of the fort is through a window built at the base of ramparts to the north of the bastion. The passage beyond this window is very narrow, being 8 feet 4 inches only in width, but it is strongly defended by a line of battlements. After some distance, the passage has steps, which lead to another window facing the south. Beyond the latter window is some open space and farther on a
T-shaped gateway with arches at the entrance points. The gateway is strongly built and the arches though small, are well proportioned. The first two have a span of 7 feet 6 inches and a height up to the apex of 9 feet 8 inches. The other two, one at each end of the top of the T, are still smaller, being 7 feet in span and 7 feet 6 inches in height. The northern of the last two arches was originally fitted with a door, which opened on another court with a line of battlements.  

This formed the second stage of the parkota. Beyond this stage there are steps and a gate leading to the moat. The gate faces the north, and has an arched opening, measuring 11 feet in height and 7 feet 9 inches in width. This gate was called the Kalyani Darwaza on account of its facing that town. It is likely that in early times the road to Kalyani also started from that point.  

The Petla Burj is mounted with a gun by Muhammad Qasim, bearing the date 1193 H. (A.D. 1779) but originally it must have had a long-range gun, which was subsequently removed either to the Red Bastion or the Black Bastion, both of which were built at a later date and are mounted with long-range guns of earlier make. The Petla Burj faces west, and as the plateau extends a long way in that direction it is pleasant to watch the sunset from the bastion the last rays of the sun imparting a lovely radiance to the domes of the Barid Shahi tombs which were seen in the distance and form a delightful outline on the horizon.  

The Lal Burj or the ‘Red Bastion’ is so called on account of the red masonry (laterite) of which it is built. The bastion stands some 25 yards behind
the main line of fortifications and was apparently built as an additional measure of defence for the Takht Mahall, which could be bombarded if earthworks and batteries were raised on the plateau outside the Kalyani Darwaza to the north-west of the bastion.\textsuperscript{63}

The construction of the Lal Burj is not very solid, it seems to have been built in haste, but it is mounted with a long-range gun of an elegant design. The name, \textbf{Top-i-Haidari} and the date, Ramadan, 996 (February, CE. 1588), are carved on the gun. It also bears the name of the king Qasim Band II and the statement, that it was begun during his reign, which extended from 1587 to 1591 C.E. \textsuperscript{64} The exact dimensions of the gun are; Length - 12 ft 2 inches Bore 1 ft 2 inches, Circumference near the muzzle 8 ft 1 inch, circumference near the butt 11 ft. \textsuperscript{65}

Further south from the Lal Burj is another bastion, styled the \textbf{Kala Burj}, because of the dark trap masonry of which it has been built. The Kala Burj also is constructed behind the main line of fortifications and its object, like that of the Lal Burj, was to strengthen the defense line at this point for the protection of the Takht Mahall against a cannonade from the plateau outside the fort. The Kala Burj is most massively built, and it has a battery on its top mounted with a long-range gun, which bears the name of King Ali Barid and the date 977 H. (A.D. 1569).\textsuperscript{66} The gun has a highly polished surface and is adorned with ornamental panels containing inscriptions in the Tughra style of writing. The dimensions of the Kala Burj gun are also not inconsiderable, the
length being 18 feet 5 inches, bore 1 ft 7 inches, circumference near the muzzle 9 feet, and circumference near the butt nearly 12 feet.\textsuperscript{67}

Within a short distance to the southeast of the Kala Burj the line of fortifications are doubled, apparently to guard a passage which leads from the fort to the \textbf{Carnatic Darwaza}. The entrance to the passage was through a massive arch built under the ramparts. On entering through the arch there are steps, which descend to another arch, which is of smaller dimensions and was originally fitted with a door. Passing beyond the latter arch there is a court divided into two parts by a rock wall in which an aperture has been made to give access from one part of the court to the other. The court has an arcade, which has been increased in depth. The arcade has a line of battlements at the top and it is provided with loopholes for both small and large firearms. The court in front of the arcade is defended by several massive bastions. In the southern part of the arcade is a gateway, which has arched openings at each end and rooms for the guards along the passage through it. The outer opening of the gateway was originally fitted with a door, as is proved by the presence of sockets. The roof of the gateway is vaulted.\textsuperscript{68}

Beyond the gateway there is another court with rooms for guards along its sides. At the end of the court there is another gateway which faces north and opens upon the moat. This is the third gateway, counting from the archway built under the ramparts, providing an exit from the interior of the fort. The elaborate arrangements of the defences of this Darwaza show that a
regular system for the layout of the fortifications in the Deccan was developed subsequent to the introduction of fire-arms.  

Close to the arch leading to the passage of the Carnatic Darwaza is the northern entrance to the Takht Mahall enclosure. In giving an account of the palaces and the other royal buildings in the fort a start may be made from the RangIn Mahall which adjoins the Gumbad Darwaza towards the south-west.

**Rangin Mahall.**

Rangin Mahall literally means the “Coloured Palace” and this name was apparently given to it on account of its walls being originally decorated with tiles of different hues, traces of which still exist on the facade of the eastern halls. Near the Gumbad Darwaza a royal tower had existed perhaps since the time when Ahmad Shah Wali built the fort (CE 1429-32). In 892 H. (CE. 1487) Mahmud Shah Bahmani considered the Shah Burj as auspicious, and he had a lofty palace built in its close vicinity. The southern apartments of this palace were rebuilt by Ali Barid (CE 1642-80), who adorned them with wooden carving and mother-of-pearl work. The building can be accessed by two flights of steps, which lead to a landing from which, by passing through some rooms, the interior of the palace is reached. One of these rooms opens on a veranda which is modern, but there are two halls at its back towards the east, which from the style of their architecture appear to be of the Bahmani period. The hall at the northeast end is square in plan, but has a high vaulted roof, which is supported by squinches in corners. The hall measures 25 feet 4 inches each way at the base, and the domical ceiling is 23 feet 9 inches above the centre of the floor. The hall has a rectangular projection towards the east, and a
window at the extreme end, which opens in the southeastern wall of the fort and commands views of the ramparts and the part of the city that is situated on that side. 70

To the south of this hall, there is another hall, which was originally connected with it by an opening in the wall on that side. The latter hall also is square in plan, but is smaller than the former and measures 18 feet each way. This hall is entered from the veranda by an arch, the proportions of which are rather squat, the span being 11 feet 5 inches and the height up to the apex 13 feet 5 inches. It has a rectangular extension towards the south, which has also an arched opening to the veranda. There are three small rooms at the southern end of the veranda and two at the northern end. To the west of the latter there is a double room which opens on the court and has also a door towards the steps. All of these six rooms are of small dimensions 71

From the court, a view of the upper walls of the palace may be had. These were once richly adorned with tile work arranged in arch-shaped and rectangular panels. The colour scheme now visible consists of white patterns on a dark blue background. There may have been other colours also, but as the tiles have been exposed to the inclemencies of the weather for several centuries, they have completely faded. The designs consist of floral and calligraphic devices exhibiting a highly developed technique and refined taste. The court had a water channel with fountains and a cistern in the middle.72

At the southern end of the court is the hall and pavilion. The plan of the hall has been disturbed by the insertion of some modern walls and doors, but
originally it had two apartments, each containing five bays. The total length of the hall is 52 feet and the width 20 feet. The divisions are arranged by means of columns, which are of wood and most beautifully carved. The designs are both Muslim and Hindu. An interesting feature is presented by the ornamental scalloped arches, arranged by means of struts.\textsuperscript{73}

The walls of the hall were originally decorated with tile-work, which unfortunately has been destroyed in the course time, but specimens of it may be seen in the spandrels of the doorway, which leads to the royal pavilion. This doorway is built at the back of the hall and consists of two arches, one outside and the other inside, with a passage between them. The outer arch is a little larger in size, its span being 6 feet and its height up to the apex 8 feet 3 inches. This arch has a black stone moulding above the impost, while below are tiny shafts most elegantly carved. The moulding is of the rope pattern type. In the spandrels are lovely floral designs worked out on tiles, and above the doorway is a Persian verse inscribed on the same.\textsuperscript{74}

The inner arch of the doorway is decorated with mother-of-pearl work, which, being inlaid in jet-black stone appears all the more brilliant. Beyond this arch is a square room, 12 feet 4 inches on all sides, which served as an antechamber between the royal pavilion and the hall. This room was also once richly decorated with tiles, which are to be seen now only on the dadoes. The designs are floral and the colours pink, green, blue, and yellow. The room, besides leading to the royal pavilion, has two more rooms attached to it, one towards the east and the other towards the west. The latter rooms are almost
square in plan, each measuring 12 feet by 10 feet 3 inches. The room towards the east has a window opening in the fort wall.\textsuperscript{75}

The royal pavilion also is of small dimensions, the main room square in plan, measuring 12 feet 6 inches each way. It has however, deeply recessed windows towards the east and west and a pentagonal projection with three windows towards the south. There are also projections at the corners of the room, which have given it a star shaped plan similar to that of a medieval Deccan temple. The beauty of the room, however, lies in its rich decorations, which consist of mother-of-pearl work and tile-mosaics. The floral patterns and calligraphic texts have been depicted by inlaying mother-of-pearl of the finest quality.\textsuperscript{76}

Originally, the pavilion had a fountain in the middle, the basin of which is now lying in the outer court of the palace between the two flights of steps referred to above. The basin measures 2 feet 6 inches across. The Bahmani and Barid Shahi kings had great love of the for fountains and water channels which has become proverbial and it will be noticed later from this work that, in all their palaces the lay-out of the waterworks was an important feature of their architectural and decorative schemes.\textsuperscript{77}

The Rangin Mahal, however beautiful, it’s wood carving and however fascinating its tile mosaics and mother-of-pearl work, suffers by the smallness of its dimensions and betrays a feebleness of spirit and lack of vision on the part of the builders. But the plan of the palace and its structural parts have
been altered so extensively at various periods that it is difficult to visualize it in its original form or to appraise correctly its beauty and its defects.\textsuperscript{78}

Adjoining the western wall of the court, steps descend to another part of the palace. The building here consists of a hall with a lofty facade decorated with stuccowork. The arches of the northern openings of the hall rise to a considerable height and their dimensions show a fine sense of proportion. The hall itself measures 29 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 10 inches, and has a recess 9 feet 9 inches deep towards the south, which is fitted with windows opening on the ramparts of the fort. The hall was once decorated with encaustic tiles, traces of which may still be seen in the upper parts of the walls. The roof of the hall is divided into three compartments by arches, which have been built across the width of the hall. The elegant form of these arches combined with their large dimensions gives an air of dignity to the hall.\textsuperscript{79}

To the east of the hall, steps rise to the roof leading to another hall and two rooms. There is a vault above the steps, which has a lantern like shape. The hall on the roof measures 29 feet 2 inches by 11 feet 6 inches and is flanked by two rooms, one on each side towards the east and west. The latter rooms are almost square in plan, each measuring 12 feet 8 inches by 10 feet 6 inches. The ceiling of the hall and rooms consists of shallow vaults, which are concealed in the thickness of the roof. From the top a good view of the interior of the fort and Bidar city may be done and the ladies of the harem at times must have enjoyed fresh air and moonlit nights there.\textsuperscript{80}
In the basement of the Rangin Mahall there is a series of rooms, which were apparently occupied by the guards and the menial servants of the palace. The ceilings of these rooms are vaulted, being most massively built with a view to supporting the weight of the royal apartments above. The arched openings of these rooms are somewhat squat in form, having a width of 11 feet 2 inches with a height of 11 feet 9 inches only.\textsuperscript{81}

**The Shahi Matbakh or the Royal Kitchen.**

This adjoins the Rangin Mahall towards the west and is situated to the left of the road. The building at one time may have been used for the royal kitchen, but it is too large to have been originally built for that purpose and from its plan it would appear to have been the residence of a prince or of some court dignitary. After the annexation of Bidar to the Bijapur kingdom in 1619 C.E, Malik Marjan, an Abyssinian general in the service of the latter kingdom, was appointed governor of Bidar and he resided in the fort, apparently in this palace, for there is an inscription on the inner entrance which mentions Malik Marjan's name.\textsuperscript{82}

The building is entered from the roadside by an arched gateway, which leads to an open court measuring 70 feet 6 inches by 81 feet 8 inches. The south wing of the court comprises an inner gateway and seven rooms with double apartments. The arches of these rooms are extremely squat in their proportions, each having a span of 11 feet 2 inches with a height of 11 feet 7 inches only. The arch of the inner gateway, however, shows a better sense of proportion, its span being 8 feet and its height up to the apex 14 feet 2 inches. The passage of this gateway is 11 feet wide and 32 feet 9 inches long, and on
either side of it are rooms for guards. The ceiling of the gateway consists of a single vault. The arches of the guards' rooms are again very squat in their proportions, the span being 18 feet 2 inches, the height from the floor up to the apex 14 feet 9 inches and the height of the columns up to the springing points 5 feet 8 inches. The rooms themselves measure 22 feet 3 inches by 14 feet 10 inches, and they have vaulted ceilings, which are almost flat. 83

After passing through the inner gateway a court is reached, which measures 180 feet 5 inches from east to west, and 67 feet 5 inches from north to south. At the southern end of the court is a spacious platform, five steps higher than the court level, measuring 51 feet 7 inches in width and 162 feet 2 inches in length. There is a small cistern in the middle of the platform and it appears that originally there were fountains and water-channels in this palace as well. The main building of the palace faces north and comprises a series of rooms and chambers with two domical halls, one at the eastern and one at the western end. The two domical halls are still standing. 84

The domical halls are built very massively and the interiors are star shaped in plan, comprising a square space in the middle with projections on all four sides. The middle space measures 21 feet 2 inches each way. There are spacious arches on all four sides from which the projections start, the span of the arches being 20 feet 10 inches and the height up to the apex 17 feet 6 inches. There are squinches at the corners which make the plan of the hall octagonal above the arches and higher up there are three niches in each
corner, which make it twenty four sided, thus passing easily into the circular base of the dome above. It was probably built by the Bahmani kings.85

At the northern end of the courtyard is a modern veranda with a tiled roof these modern accretions have spoiled the effect which the decayed remains of the palace, by their grey masonry and soft outline, would otherwise have produced. Marks of beauty may, however, still be traced here and there; for example, the proportions of the arches outlined on the western and eastern walls are extremely fine, and there is some delightful stucco work in a room in the upper storey behind the dome at the north-western corner.86

There are traces of several other rooms and a cistern in the upper storey and it appears that there were rooms on the southern side as well, as the vaults, which served as their base, are still to be seen. There is a series of these vaults with low squat arches, which continue up to the ramparts. The vaults were evidently utilized for the accommodation of palace guards and for storing provisions and royal paraphernalia.87

Behind the western enclosure wall of the palace is a large well, which is approached by a ramp on the left side of the road. The masonry work of the well has been raised to a great height, so that the water when drawn to that level might flow into the cistern and fountains in the upper storey of the palace.88

Shahi Hammam or the Royal Bath

The road near the north-eastern corner of the Shahi Matbakh enters through an arch in the enclosure of the Royal Seraglio, locally called the Zanana Mahalla and passes by the steps of the Shahi Hammam, which is
situated within the enclosure. Its platform rises to a height of 4 feet from the road, and has a length of 67 feet from east to west and a width of 61 feet from north to south. In front of the middle part of the building there is a pavement a little higher than the platform, measuring 29 feet by 23 feet. Behind the pavement was a double hall with five bays in each half, the four corner bays being larger than the middle ones. The divisions are arranged by means of arches, which have wide spans and low imposts, a common feature of the architecture of Bidar. The total length of the hall is 63 feet and the depth 27 feet, the ceiling is divided into vaults. The hall extends towards the south in the form of two wings, each consisting of a double apartment with vaulted ceiling.89

The middle part of the building was apparently used as the waiting hall, which consists of three apartments, adjoining the hall towards the east. The original roof of the southern two apartments of this stage have fallen down and the present roof is modern. Beyond this stage was another towards the east, consisting of a single domed chamber. Here, the temperature being warmer, the bathers waited for a few minutes to prepare themselves for the still warmer atmosphere of the interior. The dadoes of this chamber were once adorned with encaustic tiles, but they have disappeared and now only the black stone margins, indicating the outlines of the tile panels, are to be seen.90

The plan of the innermost hall consists of a middle apartment, measuring 8 feet 9 inches each way, with a narrow corridor 3 feet 8 inches wide all round. Towards the east, at the ends of the corridor, there was a more
spacious apartment, measuring 5 feet 6 inches in width and 22 feet 2 inches in length. This apartment was purposely made broader for the accommodation of the bath attendants, who had to resort to it freely for drawing water from the hot and cold tanks which adjoined it on the east. The rectangular tank apparently contained the hot water, and the square one the cold. The doors in the back and side walls of these reservoirs have been opened recently with the object of utilizing the building for modern purposes. The passage from the hot and cold water cisterns to the middle apartment, where the bath was taken, is also wide, measuring 8 feet 9 inches. The ceiling of this hall is vaulted and divided into compartments in a variety of forms—hemispherical, barrel type, and dish shaped. The arches are also of two types, wide and squat, and narrow and slim. The contrasts and variety in forms have added to the picturesqueness of the architecture of the hall. 91

Parallel to the eastern apartments of the building there are rooms on the western side, but their plan is different. They consist of two halls, each divided into three apartments. The total length of each hall is 22 feet 6 inches, and the breadth 12 feet. The ceiling is vaulted, being divided into compartments with hemispherical and casket-like forms. The exterior of the building is somewhat inconspicuous, perhaps owing to the alterations which have been made in recent times for utilitarian purposes. On the roof of the building there was originally a parapet of pleasing design representing overlapping arches. As this design is generally found in the later Bahmani and Baridshahi buildings, it appears that the Hammam was built either by the later
Bahmani kings or by the rulers of the Baridshahi dynasty. Portions of this parapet still exist above the western and northern walls. 92

**Lal Bagh or the Ruby Gardens**

On the other side of the road facing the Shahi Hammam was the Lal Bagh, so styled either on account of its beautiful lay-out or the abundance of red flowers once blooming therein. The garden has completely perished and the Archaeological department and the site has been thoroughly cleaned and enclosed by a wall. 93

The total length of the garden is 136 yards and the breadth 70 yards. Originally, it had a pavilion in the middle through which, a delightful water channel passed. Traces of the water channel still exist in the courts of the gardens. Entering the garden from the roadside there is first seen a cistern of elegant design. It is built in the middle of a platform 4 feet high and 41 feet square. The cistern is 3 feet 4 inches deep and has a beautiful black stone margin which is arranged in ornamental cusps giving the cistern a fourteen sided oval form. 94

Passing towards the south the remains of a channel, 2 feet 10 inches wide, are seen and farther on a narrow cistern with five jets. The length of this cistern is 60 feet and the breadth, including the margins, 8 feet 8 inches. A carved slab built in a slanting position on the northern side of the cistern shows that a small cascade had been arranged there. Traces of another cascade of this design are to be seen in the wall of the palace at the southern extremity of the garden. The water feeding the latter came from a reservoir
built in the higher apartments of the palace, which in turn received their supply from a well situated close to the southern wall.\textsuperscript{95}

**The Zanana-i-Masjid or the Solak Khamb Mosque**

Both these names Zanana-i-Masjid or the Solah Khamb Mosque have been given in comparatively recent times, the first on account of the building being situated in the Zanana enclosure adjoining the Lal Bagh towards the west and the second on account of the presence of sixteen columns (Solah khabm) in the middle part of the prayer hall. Originally it was the principal mosque, Masjid-i-Jami of Bidar and the Friday prayers as well as state functions of a religious character, were held here. In C.E. 1656 when Aurangzeb, as Viceroy of the Deccan conquered Bidar hastened to this mosque to have the khutba recited in the name of his father Shah Jahan, as a proclamation of his sovereignty in the newly acquired territory.\textsuperscript{96}

An inscription found below the debris and earth from the decayed part of the mosque not only gives the exact date of the building but also the name of the prince in whose regime the mosque was constructed. The inscription has been deciphered as follows:\textsuperscript{97}

*During the time of the viceroy of God; Prince Muhammad, who has no equal; In 827 H. (A.D. 1423-4) Qubli Sultani was the auspicious founder of this mosque.*

Prince Muhammad son of Ahmad Shah Wali al-Bahmani held the viceroyalty of the Bidar province before the transfer of the seat of capital from Gulbarga to Bidar city. The mosque is therefore the earliest Muslim, building in the city of Bidar and its style of architecture and vast dimensions deserve
careful study. The building has a long front, nearly 310 feet from the north to the south, but as its height is only 28 feet 6 inches and all the arched openings of the facade are of a uniform size. This building has a parapet of pleasing design above the row of front arches and also by giving a high clerestory with windows of beautiful jali (Net) work round the dome and the long stretch of nineteen uniform arches wearies the eye.98

The form of the arches taken separately shows a fine sense of proportion, their span being 11 feet 4 inches, and their height up to the apex 20 feet. The columns are too massive, the square columns measure 4 feet 2 inches on each side and the round ones have a girth of 13 feet 9 inches at the base, but they decrease in bulk slightly as they rise. The prayer-hall measures 294 feet 9 inches from the north to the south and 80 feet from the east to the west. The rows of columns divide the prayer hall into five apartments lengthwise and nineteen breadth wise, thus making ninety-five bays, but the space of the nine middle bays near the western end is occupied by a hall, which is crowned by a majestic dome. This hall is square in plan at the base, measuring 38 feet 4 inches each way, but higher up it has been made octagonal by the insertion of squinches at the corners. The squinches are rather massive in proportions and are supported by struts of the elephant trunk shape.99

Above the squinches, the plan of the building becomes sixteen-sided by the arrangement of a series of arched windows, which are filled with tracery of exquisite design, the patterns being geometrical. The tracery work adds to the
beauty of the interior of the prayer hall, and further admits fresh air and light to
the building. The series of windows form a sort of clerestory on which the
dome rests, the latter rising some 70 feet above the floor of the prayer-hall.
The western wall has a pentagonal niche, entered by an arch of fine
proportions. The niche points out the direction of the Kaaba, which the
congregation faces when saying its prayers. The niche, technically called the
mihrab, also marks the place of the Imam who conducts the prayers. The roof
of the remaining part of the prayer hall is divided into square bays and
comprises a series of small domes, which are visible at the top, but concealed
from view by the parapet when seen from the ground level. To allow light into
the southern part of the hall five domes have openings at their apexes, and
one of them has a lantern-shaped projection.\textsuperscript{100}

There is a well beyond the southern wall of the mosque from which
water was obtained for the ablutions of the congregation. Traces of a water
channel may still be seen along the top of the western wall of the mosque.
There is also a water reservoir on the roof of the mosque, from which water
was distributed to the cisterns in the ground floor of the mosque. The building,
through the neglect of centuries, had fallen into a sad state of disrepair;
several of the domes of the room had fallen down, many others had developed
cracks, the floor of the building was practically destroyed and the walls are in a
parlous condition.\textsuperscript{101}

\textbf{Tarkash Mahall}

It was perhaps so styled on account of its having been built for a
Turkish wife of the king, but about this time it appears that a certain
conventionality was also observed in giving names to the royal buildings. Tarkash Mahalls, Gagan Mahalls and Nagma Mahalls are mentioned in contemporary records as the names of palaces at Bijapur, Golconda, and Bidar. The rulers of the contemporary dynasties at these places evidently vied with one another in the glory of their architectural works and chose the same names for their palaces as were adopted by their rivals in the other kingdoms.¹⁰²

The Tarkash Mahall at Bidar may have originally begun by the Bahmani kings, but the upper parts of the building are decidedly of the Barid shahi period and the palace has undergone so many alterations through the caprice of various rulers at subsequent periods that it is impossible now to determine its original plan. The uppermost apartments of the building are approached at present from the steps, which are built at the western end of the building and lead also to the roof of the Solah Khamb mosque. The roof of these apartments has fallen down, but the walls are more or less intact and they give an idea of the design of the building. In the middle there was a hall measuring 28 feet 6 inches in length and 14 feet 6 inches in width. It had arched openings 3 and was beautifully decorated with tiles and stucco work. There are also a great number of small arched niches in the walls of this hall.¹⁰³

The roof of the hall has fallen and originally there was another apartment above it, the remains of which in the shape of two arches may still be seen. They were also richly decorated with stuccowork and although their spans are a little too wide in relation to their height, yet their general
appearance is very pleasing. There are smaller rooms on either side of the middle hall, those on the eastern side disfigured by later additions, but those on the western side more or less intact, and they comprise a square room with two narrow rooms in the form of corridors in front and behind respectively. The square room measures 11 feet 10 inches each way, and it was at one time beautifully adorned with encaustic tiles, traces of which may be seen on the dadoes of the room. The upper parts of the walls and the ceiling are decorated with cut plaster work.\textsuperscript{104}

The corridor in front of the square room measures 14 feet 3 inches in length and 6 feet 1 inch in width. The ceiling of the corridor was originally decorated with stuccowork in floral designs. The back corridor is still narrower, its width being 4 feet 6 inches and length 11 feet 9 inches. The ceiling of this corridor is flat, from it a covered passage along the back of the building leads to the steps. In front of these apartments, there is a terrace 137 feet 6 inches long and 22 feet 8 inches wide, with a projection 29 feet long and 13 feet 8 inches deep in the middle. The terrace has a beautiful fountain to which water was apparently supplied from the well near the northern end of the building. The basin of the fountain is hexagonal in form, measuring 4 feet 6 inches across. It has a masonry margin with a cusped design\textsuperscript{105}

The main apartment consists of a hall divided into eight bays by the insertion of massive arches. The span of these arches is 11 feet 5 inches, their height up to the apex is 10 feet 7 inches and the thickness of the masonry 4 feet 10 inches. The total length of the hall is 110 feet, and its width is 17 feet 6

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The roof is vaulted, each bay having a separate vault. At the back of this hall towards the north there were two more halls of the same length but a little narrower. The span of the arches, which support the roof of the latter halls is 9 feet 6 inches and their height up to the apex is 10 feet 3 inches. Beyond these two halls is an open space, and traces of an old parapet prove that the uppermost apartments of the Tarkash Mahall were built at a later date.\textsuperscript{106}

Below this storey on the ground floor is a series of rooms. They are built in four rows one behind the other, and have vaulted roofs. To the east of the hall, there is a double hall, measuring 35 feet 6 inches in length and 23 feet 6 inches in depth. The floor of the hall seems to have been raised in later times and consequently the arches, which support the ceiling, now look somewhat squat. Their span is, 9 feet 6 inches. In front of the double hall towards the north, there is another hall, in the southern wall of which a pipeline is plainly visible. The line is connected with the well to the west of the building. The floor of the latter hall is much lower than that of the former. There are some more rooms with vaulted ceilings, adjacent to the last two halls and it appears that originally they formed the eastern wing of the building. They were occupied by Arab guards who had built mud walls for the purpose of partitioning and have thus disfigured the beauty of the old arches and elegant plasterwork.\textsuperscript{107}

At present the Tarkash Mahall forms the western side of another palace, styled the Gagan Mahall, which is described below. But, another building situated to the east of the latter is also called the Tarkash Mahall. It is in an extremely ruined condition now. But the plan of the building as far as this
can be made out from its present remains, shows that it had two storeys and that the rooms in the upper storey were probably occupied by the royal ladies, whilst those on the ground floor were either occupied by guards or used as storerooms. The plaster decorative work of the western wall comprises designs and patterns, which are frequently found in the ornamentation of Barid Shahi architecture. And it is not unlikely that, the palace (Tarkash Mahall) was built or extended by the kings of the Barid Shahi dynasty, who kept large harems, comprising ladies of different nationalities, such as Persian, Georgian, Circassian, and Turkish. The western wall has also a large number of arched niches, the heads of some of which are of the trefoil pattern. ¹⁰⁸

In the northern side of the building rooms with vaulted ceilings are preserved on the ground floor, but the apartments in the upper storey have almost perished and only their western wall and the pedestals of some pillars and a cistern now exist. The plinth of the western wall was originally decorated with encaustic tiles of hexagonal pattern and the arch-heads with plasterwork of floral design. The vaulted rooms of the ground floor are arranged in four rows, one behind the other in the depth of the building.¹⁰⁹

The southern wing of the palace has also fallen into considerable decay and some later additions have further disfigured the appearance of the building. The rooms on the ground floor had arched openings towards the court, their shape resembling the four-centred arch of Tudor design. The facade of the building was decorated with plasterwork, which has peeled away, and only traces of it can be noticed here and there. The apartments of
the upper storey have also suffered a great deal; their remains comprise a screen of arches facing the court and a hall with five arched openings in the western side of the terrace. There was an octagonal room in the front, a portion of which in the form of a balcony projects over the court. The balcony, though much dilapidated, can still be seen. The lower part of the balcony is decorated with a knob at the end and several circular bands of carved masonry above it. The design of the carving resembles that of the finials of the medieval temples of the Deccan. The court of this palace measures 99 feet from east to west and 95 feet 9 inches from north to south. 110

The Gagan Mahall.

Gagan in Sanskrit means heaven, Gagan Mahall, therefore, means the Heavenly Palace. It was originally built by Bahmani kings, but later the Barid Shahi rulers made certain alterations and additions in the plan of the building, notably in the northern wing of the palace and the apartments on the roof of the southern block. The rooms belonging to the ground floor of the latter block are, however, of the Bahmani period. 114

The palace has two courts, the outer apparently used by the male staff and the guards of the palace. The entrance to the outer court is at the back of the Solah Khamb mosque. It comprises a four-centred arch of Tudor type, the span of the arch being 12 feet, its height up to the springing points being 13 feet 5 inches, and up to the apex 16 feet 10 inches. On the southern side of the court is a series of rooms and halls built in rows one behind the other. They have eight arched openings towards the court. Their length from the east to the west is 125 feet, and the depth of the first four rows of halls is 52 feet 6
inches. There are masonry piers to support the arches which divide the ceiling of these halls into a number of vaults, decorated with plaster-work of elegant designs. There is a hall with a small court near the inner entrance of the palace. The hall measures 47 feet 3 inches in length and 17 feet in depth and has four arched openings towards the court. 115

The entrance to the inner court comprises a covered passage, 41 feet in length, with three arches, one at each end, towards the east and the west, and one in the middle. These arches are lofty in proportions, rising to a height of 18 feet 6 inches from the ground level and having a span of 11 feet 4 inches. The inner court of the palace measures 137 feet north to south and 96 feet 3 inches east to west. There were arcades on three sides of the court, the remains of which may be seen towards the east and the west, but the arcade towards the north has been incorporated in the basement rooms of the Tarkash Mahall, which was built at a later date than the Gagan Mahall. The eastern and western arcades have each ten openings towards the court, their form indicating a fine sense of proportion. 116

The main building of the palace is towards the south and has rooms both on the ground floor and on the roof. In the middle, there is first an open space in the form of a pavement. It measures 48 feet 8 inches by 32 feet 5 inches. The main doorway of the rooms is in the middle of the southern side of the pavement. It has a pointed arch with low imposts at its outer side. The arch is adorned with a stone margin, which is beautifully carved, the design being a trefoil creeper. Passing through the doorway a double hall may be seen, which
is divided into six bays by massive arches. Each of these bays measures 18 feet 3 inches square and has a shallow vault for its ceiling.  

At the back of this double hall is a narrow corridor, 3 feet 7 inches wide, with deeply recessed windows opening on the moat. The arches on the right side of the double hall are blocked, hence it is difficult to determine whether there was any passage connecting the latter with the halls in the southern wing of the outer court.

The rooms on the left side of the double hall are, however, open, and may be entered from the door in the left side of the pavement. The first room is rectangular in plan, 30 feet in length and 18 feet 8 inches in width. It has a vaulted ceiling, the section of the vault being in the form of a pointed arch. The room has arched openings both towards the north and towards the south. The opening towards the south gives access to a pair of rooms, which are connected together by a massive arch. The total length of these rooms is 27 feet 6 inches and width 13 feet. They have vaulted ceilings, the vaults being of a shallow type, but neatly decorated with stuccowork done in relief. At the northern end of the eastern room of these two there is another pair built along the eastern wall of the palace. The latter two rooms also have vaulted ceilings and they are joined together by a well-proportioned arch, the dimensions of the latter being; span, 12 feet 6 inches, height up to the apex, 15 feet 6 inches. These rooms at the floor level are square in plan and measure 15 feet each way.
The inner aisle of the main hall of the palace is connected towards the east with two more rooms which are joined by an arch. These two rooms together measure 30 feet in length, and have a uniform width of 10 feet 2 inches. The northern of these rooms has a vaulted projection towards the east, whilst the southern is connected with two more rooms.¹²⁰

From the south-west corner of the pavement, a staircase leads to the apartments on the first floor of the building. From the first landing a series of rooms are approached which are divided into three aisles. These rooms are also accessible from the steps built in the western side of the outer court of the palace. A door in the front aisle of the rooms gives access to a hall, which must have been magnificent at one time, but as its roof has fallen much of its splendour is lost. It is divided into two apartments by lofty arches, their height from the floor being 23 feet 3 inches and span 18 feet 6 inches. The walls of the hall are richly decorated with small niches and carving in which the pendant and chain devices are prominent. The dimensions of the hall are: length, 48 feet 6 inches and width, 22 feet 11 inches. The hall was apparently meant for the use of the king and that is perhaps also the reason why it can be approached both from the outer and from the inner courts, independently. There are two series of vaulted chambers to the north and east of the great hall.¹²¹

In the front aisle of the rooms on the west of the hall, steps may be seen at its northern end, which lead to the uppermost storey of the palace. There in the middle of an extensive terrace two halls were built, one behind
the other. The outer hall is more spacious of the two, measuring 35 feet by 21 feet 6 inches. The inner is narrower, its depth being only 12 feet. The walls of the outer hall are profusely adorned with stuccowork. Towards the east of these halls, at a lower level, is another suite of rooms, the arches of which have very graceful proportions. In the northern wall, there are outlines of three arches, the middle one being wider in span than the two side ones. The arrangement of these arches with differing spans is very pleasing to the eye.122

The Diwan-i-Am, or Hall of Public Audience.

This building was called the Jali Mahall on account of some screens of Lattice (Jali) work which were visible at the top of the huge pile of debris lying on the site. Excavations have been conducted on an extensive scale by the Archaeological Department of Hyderabad and they have disclosed not only the plan of the building but also such remains as reveal, in their architectural and decorative features, the original grandeur of the whole.123

The monument is situated to the west of the Zanana enclosure and it is approached by a road which proceeds straight from the latter enclosure. The outer wall of the Diwan-i-Am is preserved up to a considerable height on the southern side, but on the remaining three sides, it rises only a few feet above the plinth and has been exposed to view by recent excavations. The building has two entrances, one through the eastern wall and the other through the western, but they do not face each other. The excavations have exposed to view the original pavement of the eastern entrance, but the masonry of its outer and inner gateways, which must have comprised large blocks of carved
stone, has all disappeared, perhaps carted away for use in modern buildings. The entrance on the outer side measures 9 feet in width, but on the inner side, it has become wider, apparently owing to the decay of the sidewalls at this end.\textsuperscript{124}

The court of the building is approached passing through the entrance, which measures 166 feet from east to west and 133 feet from north to south. In the latter direction it is however, divided into two parts. The southern part is paved and has a width of 96 feet 3 inches. The northern part is some 16 inches lower than the former and has a width of 36 feet 9 inches only. The principal hall of the building, which was probably used for public audiences, is on the southern side and approached by five steps from the pavement. The steps extend along the entire length of the hall and are built of a black stone of close texture (hornblende?) which has kept its beautiful polish to this day. The steps are, however, not comfortable to climb, being high and also narrow. But this defect is found in all Indian buildings, whether Buddhist, Brahmanical, or Muslim, down even to the eighteenth century CE.\textsuperscript{125}

The hall is divided into three apartments by rows of pillars, six of them being arranged in each row. These pillars also divide the hall breadthwise into seven avenues, the interspacing between the pillars in all the avenues being uniform except, in the middle avenue, the fourth from each aide, where it measures 15 feet 9 inches. The total length of the hall is 109 feet and depth 52 feet 6 inches. The pillars of the hall were probably of wood, and they have all perished. The stone pedestals on which the wooden shafts rested are,
however, intact, and their carving shows beautiful workmanship. The pedestals are square in plan, being wider at the base than at the top, where they measure 1 ft 11 inches each way. The shafts also, as indicated by the rough surface of the top, were square in plan, measuring 1 ft 9 inches on each side approximately.\textsuperscript{126}

The walls of the hall were originally decorated with panels of tile work, some of which have survived. The colours of a majority of the panels are not so fresh, for the tiles have remained buried under debris and earth for a long time and the salts generating through various causes reached the surface of the tiles together with the monsoon water, percolating through the overlying mass of rubbish, and destroyed the glaze, also affecting the colours. The predominant colour is blue, of which several shades maybe seen, while green, yellow, and buff have been used for purposes of contrast. In the middle of some rosettes, spots of red may also be noticed, but this colour has been used very sparsely. The designs are floral, geometrical, and calligraphic, combined in a pleasing manner and resembling in some aspects those seen on Persian book covers and carpets. The panel has a calligraphic device arranged in the form of a svastika. In this panel, above a representation of leaves in white, there are some green leaves also, the lower ends of which have been given fancy shapes, the design resembling both Chinese and Persian patterns. The ceiling of the hall, like the pillars, may have been of wood painted and gilded over. In the hall was placed the Takhti-Firoza, Turquoise Throne, which ‘exceeded in splendour and intrinsic value every
other in the world'. In this hall were celebrated the accessions of Bahmani
kings, with a magnificent display of their opulence and power and in this hall
foreign embassies bringing rare and costly presents from their respective
countries waited on the sovereigns of this dynasty.\textsuperscript{127}

Behind the hall, the remains of three rooms may be noticed the middle
one was probably the king’s chamber where he sat before appearing in the
audience hall. This room has a square plan at the base, measuring 18 feet 6
inches each way. The floor has a mosaic design comprising geometric
patterns, such as hexagons and stars. The walls, like those of the main hall,
were richly decorated with tiles, and the arch-heads above the doorways had
elegantly carved black stone margins. Several slabs of the margin have been
found in the excavations, a few of which maybe seen in the room itself, while
the rest are exhibited in the museum now established in the Royal Bath. On
either side of the king’s chamber were rectangular rooms, the floors and the
lower ends of the walls of which have now been exposed to view. They are
connected with the main hall towards the north by doorways. These two rooms
have uniform dimensions, being 25 feet 10 inches long and 16 feet 10 inches
wide. Beyond the latter rooms, both towards the east and west, there are two
more rooms, one on each side, measuring 25 feet 10 inches by 16 feet 10
inches. The latter however, are separated from the former rooms by narrow
corridors, measuring 10 feet in length and 4 feet 7 inches in width. The
corridor on the western side has a small door in its northern projection.\textsuperscript{128}
The last mentioned two rooms have openings towards the north, which connect them with the halls built on the eastern and western side of the great hall. They were probably ministers’ halls, being spacious and adorned with tile-work in the style of the former hall. Their exact dimensions are; length, 45 feet 6 inches, width 21 feet 6 inches. At the northern end of the ministers’ rooms are steps, which lead to balcony-like apartments, opening on the court, whence the ministers or other responsible officers of the court apparently received petitions.\textsuperscript{129}

Behind the ministers’ rooms, towards both the east and the west, there is another room, a little narrower in width but of the same length as the former. These two rooms are connected at their northern ends with the colonnades built along the eastern and western sides of the court, and at their southern ends with two square rooms built at the extreme ends of the back apartments of the building described above. The square rooms measure 16 feet 3 inches each way. Their walls in their present condition do not bear any traces of ornamentation, but the arches built along their sides have very pleasing proportions, exhibiting a fine style of architecture. These arches are of considerable dimensions, the span being 12 feet 10 inches and the height up to the apex 17 feet.\textsuperscript{130}

The remains of walls preserved in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the building show that there was an upper storey, which had an arched screen built along its sides. Some arches of the screen, still exist, and they contain terracotta jalis of geometrical designs. The court had colonnades
on either side of it. In the midst of the colonnade towards the west the traces of an entrance have also been found. As it faces the royal palace (Takht Mahall) it is not unlikely that it was a sort of special entrance, meant only for the use of the king and the high officials of the State. The passage of the entrance is narrower than that of the other entrance in the eastern side.\(^\text{131}\)

The two colonnades, excepting the gaps caused by the entrances, connected the southern wing of the building with that towards the north. The latter wing has suffered much more than the former, and but for the basement, the remains of an octagonal cistern, two small fountains, and an ornamental cascade, arranged along the northern wall, nothing has survived. The presence of decorative niches in the walls, however, suggests that there was a series of rooms in this wing also which corresponded in arrangement to some extent to those in the southern wing. For example, at the northeast and southwest corners of this wing the foundations of two rooms have been discovered, which show that the rooms were square in plan, measuring 16 feet 3 inches each way. These dimensions correspond with those of the square rooms in the back apartments of the southern wing at the corners. The plinth of the northern wing rises 4 feet 6 inches above the floor of the court on that side.\(^\text{132}\)

**Takht Mahall or the Throne Palace.**

The name Takht Mahall is modern, for it is not mentioned in contemporary history, although the magnificence of the royal palace built by Ahmad Shah al-Wali at Bidar is extolled by Sayyid Ali Tabataba in his work entitled, Burhan-i-Maathir. This author mentions a palace and a forecourt but
does not give any name of the palace. The name was apparently given by the literati of Bidar, who had read glowing accounts of the splendour of the royal throne, as given by Firishta and Sayyid Ali Tabataba and who did not find a more appropriate edifice among the ruins of Bahmani buildings which according to their conception of things could be associated with the throne. The audience hall, where the throne was really placed was a mass of debris, as stated above, and nothing could be made out of its plan or of the rich decorations of its walls and pillars. The plan of the so-called Takht Mahall however agrees in its general outline and decorative features with that of the palace and forecourt built by Ahmad Shah al-Wali for his residence. It should not be confused with the audience hall where the royal throne was kept and the remains of which have been discovered in the course of excavations conducted by the Archaeological Department.133

The palace adjoins the audience hall towards the north, and has an imposing entrance facing the east. The facade is much damaged, but such arches as are intact show strength combined with beauty in the style of their architecture. They differ in span and also in shape, the stilt of the apex shows Persian influence, which is also apparent in the decorative schemes of the building which will be discussed later in this account. The outer arch has a span of 8 feet 2 inches, whilst its height from the floor to the apex is 17 feet 4 inches. Behind it is another arch, which is four-pointed in design and resembles a Tudor arch. The span of the latter is 9 feet 7 inches and its height up to the apex 16 feet. Between the outer and inner openings of the entrance
there is a covered passage, measuring 70 feet in length and 15 feet 6 inches in width. The ceiling was supported by massive arches, three of which stood across the width of the passage between the inner and outer openings of the entrance. On either side of the passage towards the north and the south are halls, these being 62 feet in length and 18 feet 4 inches in depth. The roofs of the covered passage and of the two side-halls have fallen down. The massive proportions of the arches supporting the ceiling of the passage may be judged from the arch behind the inner opening of the entrance. The dimensions of the latter arch are; span, 15 feet 6 inches, height up to the apex, 22 feet 4 inches.\textsuperscript{134}

On passing through the entrance the forecourt (peshgah) of the palace is reached, which measures 320 feet 6 inches from east to west and 239 feet from north to south. There are remains of the walls and piers, of a series of chambers and halls which were originally built on all the four sides of the court. Of these, the apartments adjoining the northern wall of the entrance, and a hall projecting from the Northern wall of the court near its eastern end, are prominent. The latter hall originally had nine domes in its ceiling, five of which are intact whilst four have fallen down. The domes are rather flattish in shape. The arches of the hall are; span, 9 feet 2 inches, and height 10 feet. The hall itself measures 35 feet 6 inches in length and 29 feet 7 inches in depth. The excavations have revealed the traces of a small court also in front of the hall. The site of the palace abuts upon lowlands towards the north and west and is defended by a massive wall, varying from 50 to 120 feet in height, and further
strengthened by bastions at the corners. A good view of the wall and bastions is obtained from the gateway leading to the lowlands of the fort, built towards the north-west of the palace.  

The inner entrance of the palace is at the northwest corner of the forecourt. Its sidewalls are solidly built, but to relieve them of the monotony of a uniform surface, arches of elegant proportions have been designed on the exterior. The masonry of the walls was originally plastered over and traces of tile decoration have also been found in the spandrels and sidewalls of the arches. The span of the arches designed on the facade of the southern walls of the inner entrance is 12 feet 9 inches and their height up to the apex 24 feet. Access is arranged through an arch of slimmer proportions, the span of which is 7 feet 4 inches and its height up to the apex 19 feet. On entering through the latter arch a small court is reached which is open, but flanked with halls for the accommodation of guards towards the north and the west. The dimensions of the court are: length 63 feet, width 27 feet. The hall on the western side has three arched openings towards the court and measures 40 feet 6 inches lengthwise and has a depth of 19 feet. The arches of the openings have a distinct stilt at the apex, although their proportions are pleasing to the eye, the span being 9 feet 4 inches and the height up to the apex 16 feet 6 inches. The hall on the northern side of the court has only two-arched openings.  

From the small court towards the left and before entering the inner court of the palace the one has to pass through two more arches. The passage
between these two arches is roofed and the ceiling is in the form of a cone with eight facets. The dimensions of the latter two arches are not uniform, the span of the outer arch being 7 feet 6 inches and its height 16 feet, while the span of the inner arch is considerably wider, that is, 10 feet 3 inches, and its height up to the apex 15 feet 6 inches. The position of these two arches in the plan of the inner entrance of the palace provides privacy in the interior and also that stricter control over the egress and ingress which a turn in a passage generally offers to the watchmen.  

The interior of the palace, until a few years back, was a huge mound of fragments of stone and wreckage of building material, all made into a compact mass by the passage of time. Only the room at the northern end of the west wing of the palace was visible, which, on account of its lofty plinth, its stately arches, and the pleasing design of the tile-decoration, was considered by the local people to be the Throne Room of the Bahmani kings and hence, the name Takht Mahall given to it. The excavations have, however, exposed to view the entire plan of the building.

While describing the various apartments of the palace, it would be convenient to begin with the court. It measures 206 feet north to south and 145 feet east to west. The southern part of it, immediately in front of the main apartments of the building, is paved. It measures 85 feet 6 inches by 145 feet. The dividing line between the paved and unpaved parts is not shown in the plan. The unpaved part of the court was flanked with halls and rooms on three sides, towards the east, the west, and the north. The hall towards the east was
found in the better state of preservation. It is divided into two apartments by arches built in the middle of its width. The length of the hall is 74 feet 3 inches and its depth 33 feet 10 inches. It has two square rooms, 10 feet 4 inches each way, at its northern end. Their floor is lower than that of the hall and they are further separated from the latter by walls. The hall has five arched openings towards the court, the dimensions of the arches being insignificant, span 8 feet and height up to the apex 9 feet 11 inches. The hall is also divided into square apartments by arches built in its length. The span of the latter is much wider than that of the front arches, 12 feet 5 inches as opposed to 8 feet. They, however, look squat because of their height, which is 9 feet 6 inches only.  

On the northern side of the court are foundations of two rectangular halls with a square room between them. The hall nearest the entrance was 95 feet long and 12 feet 9 inches deep, and it had five openings towards the court. The middle room, as indicated by its remains, measured 12 feet 9 inches each way, and had only one opening towards the court. The other hall, on the west side of the square room, would have measured 61 feet 9 inches by 12 feet 9 inches, and had three openings towards the court.  

There were halls and rooms on the western side of the court as well, and their arrangement and arched openings probably corresponded to those of the apartments on the eastern side. Their total length was 91 feet 7 inches and their depth 34 feet, but at the north-western corner of the court there were
some more apartments, the plan of which cannot be determined now owing to the scanty and irregular character of the foundations.  

The apartments on the southern, eastern and western sides of the paved court were occupied by the king and his family and their arrangement may be of interest to those students who desire to know how kings lived in those days. As the room at the northern end of the western wing has been found in a comparatively good state of preservation, and it could be visited even before the excavations, it will be convenient to start the description of the royal apartments from that room. It has a magnificent facade decorated with arches and encaustic tiles of elegant pattern and great beauty.  

The approach to the room comprises a flight of seven steps arranged in a circular design, which is unusual among the Muslim buildings of India. The steps lead to a narrow rectangular porch above which, however, a lofty arch rises. The span of the arch is 19 feet and the height of its apex from the floor 34 feet 7 inches. It has a margin of polished black stone and the spandrels are filled with tiles of geometric pattern among which the effigies of tigers with the rising sun are prominent. The royal emblem of Persia comprises the effigy of a lion with the rising sun and it appears that the craftsmen who were employed by Ahmad Shah al-Wali for the decoration of the palace with tiles probably imported the tiles from Kashan or some other centre of tile industry in Persia in the 15th century CE. Being familiar with the royal emblem of their mother country they inserted the same design in the decoration of the Bahmani palace, with the slight alteration of converting the Persian lion into a tiger.
The door, which gave access to the room, was deliberately designed of a small size with a view to safeguarding the lives of the inmates on the one hand and for the purpose of privacy on the other. It is built in the trabeate style, the width of the opening being 3 feet 5 inches only. For the purpose of ventilation and light, however, pairs of arched windows are arranged in all the four walls of the room. The plan of the interior of the room is octagonal with projections on each side, this arrangement giving a pleasing form to the design. Each side of the octagon measures 9 feet 3 inches, and the width of the room across is 27 feet 9 inches. The floor and the dadoes were adorned with tiles, the lime beds of which are plainly visible. The walls of the room rise to a height of 46 feet 6 inches from the floor, and above them was a dome which has perished. Blue tiles may have been predominant in the scheme, tiles of all colours except red are found in the remains of the palace and some beautiful specimens of a green shade may be noticed in the arch head above the door of the room facing the north. Red is not altogether absent from the decorative scheme of the palace, for pieces of hand-painted tiles with designs in red and gold have been discovered in the debris cleared from the principal hall of the building.\(^{144}\)

The western projection of the room ends in an opening. A door in the southern side of the octagonal room opens on another of a rectangular plan. Its dimensions are; length 43 feet, width 26 feet 8 inches. The room has three arched niches in the depth of its western wall, which faces the Kaaba. The presence of the niches suggests that, the room was perhaps used as a
mosque by the inmates of the palace. This may be supported by the existence of two small cisterns, the remains of which have been found near the steps in front of the room. The jambs of all the three niches are of black stone, carved in Indo-Muslim style, the patterns representing the leaf and the vase, which are peculiar to Hindu sculpture and arabesque and geometric designs, a speciality of Muslim workmanship. The room has three openings towards the east, which originally had arches with stone margins. The arches have perished completely, but the remains of masonry columns, which supported the arch heads, have been found during the excavations. According to the position of these columns the span of the arches was 4 feet 9 inches approximately.  

A door from the latter room leads to another room built on its southern side. This room, although square in plan, measuring 26 feet 3 inches each way, by the addition of projections has assumed the form of a star-shaped octagon. This room has also a stately arch in each of its four principal sides; the arches bear traces of encaustic tiles, which once adorned them. In a corner of this room, a black stone fountain has been found which does not appear to be in its original place, because it is not connected with any water-channel. The fountain is square in plan along its margins, but in the middle it has a cavity and a hole. It has also four props carved in the style of the legs of a throne.  

Beyond the square room, farther towards the south, is a rectangular hall with two vestibules or antechambers, one on each of its northern and southern
ends. The rectangular hall was probably the bedroom of the king and the two vestibules were meant for the guards, or were used as dressing rooms, for the vestibule at the southern end is connected by a passage with a small room, which appears to be a privy. The hall measures 36 feet in length and 17 feet 9 inches in width. The dimensions of the two vestibules are uniform, their length being 17 feet and depth 11 feet. In the thickness of the northern wall of the hall are two round funnels, for the passage of air or smoke, which go up to the roof level of the room. The roof, however, has perished completely and consequently the exact purpose for which the funnels were constructed cannot now be determined. In the northwestern corner of this hall the remains of a lead pipe were discovered during the excavation this was probably used for the supply of water to the hall.  

The hall has three openings in its eastern side, which lead to a paved court, 51 feet by 48 feet, with a swimming bath in its middle and alcoves in its northern and southern sides. The bath is almost square externally, measuring 33 feet 3 inches by 29 feet 2 inches, in the middle it has a pleasing design faced with polished black stone. The alcoves had originally encaustic tiles in their floors and walls, fragments of which may still be seen. In the south wall of the court are steps, which led to the upper storey of the palace. The latter does not exist now, for it has perished completely.  

A door from the eastern side of the court leads to the Royal Hall, which was crowned with a large dome. It was probably the highest dome in the fort and rose over 100 feet from the floor, which itself is nearly 15 feet higher than
the ground on its southern and eastern sides. The hall is square in plan, measuring 51 feet each way, but the architect has given it an ornamental form by the insertion of arches and niches at appropriate places. The niches in the sidewalls have, however, a Hindu appearance. The reason for this is obvious, since in the construction of the palace a large number of Hindu masons and sculptors must have been employed, whose fancy irresistibly found an expression in spite of the close supervision of the Persian architects and engineers over the building and decorative schemes of the palace. The general style of the hall is Muslim, as shown by its lofty and massive arches and also by the magnificent tile work and luxuriant hand paintings in gold and vermilion.\textsuperscript{149}

The floor of the hall had black stone margins, which are intact and may still be seen. Black stone was also used for arch heads, lintels, and jambs, all of them being beautifully carved. Among the carving are also represented Hindu designs, such as chain patterns, leaf and floral devices, and pot motifs of various shapes. Tiles of various hues and designs have also been found in the debris, and their technique represents three different categories. The majority of them have a smooth glazed surface, the coloured clays being inlaid before the tiles were placed in the fire for the finishing operation. A few show mosaic-like work, the pieces representing different colours being fired separately and then joined together to form the design. Such tiles also have a smooth surface. The third class represents flowers, leaves, tendrils, and
Arabic and Persian texts in relief, the patterns being represented in different colours.\textsuperscript{150}

The colours represented in these tiles are; blue comprising several shades; green of two classes, light and deep yellow, grey, black and white. Red is also noticed, but rarely. On the other hand, it is prominent among the colours laid on plaster in which gold is lavishly used. A large collection of these tiles is exhibited in the Archaeological Museum. Along with specimens of tiles in the museum, there is an extensive display of fragments of old china, embracing various classes of celadon and Persian blue ware. These are pieces of bowls, dishes, water-flagon, and jars, which were originally kept in the niches of the palace for both decoration and use. Among the choice presents offered by Mahmud Gawan to the Bahmani king, Muhammad Shah III, there were one hundred dishes of superb china porcelain, to be seen nowhere excepting in the palaces of a few great princes.\textsuperscript{151}

In this hall, the Bahmani kings may have given audience to the high dignitaries of the court. An opening in the eastern side of the hall leads to another which measures 50 feet from north to south and 40 feet from east to west. The remains of a cistern have been found in the middle of the latter room, but the cistern is of a much smaller size than the one in the open court on the western side of the royal domed hall. The presence of cisterns and fountains in the various apartments of the palace, however, indicates the love of Bahmani kings for the display of fresh running water in various forms.
Adjoining the latter room towards the east was another, which probably had windows opening on the outer court (peshgah).\textsuperscript{152}

On returning to the royal domed hall and passing through an opening in the middle of its northern wall is another spacious hall, which faces the main court of the palace. It is rectangular in plan, measuring 72 feet by 36 feet. The hall is divided into two apartments by pillars, the pedestals of which are intact, but the wooden shafts perished in the fire caused by an explosion of firearms, remnants of which were found during excavation. The position of the stone pedestals shows that the central aisle of the hall was wider than the two-side ones the former measuring 26 feet 10 inches in breadth, as opposed to the 16 feet 6 inches of the latter. The wooden shafts were probably of the same dimensions as those of the audience hall (Diwan-i-Am), and were gilded and decorated with paintings. The dadoes of the hall were adorned with tiles, which were also used in the adornment of the plinth of the flight of steps, starting from the paved court and making an impressive approach to the hall. The steps extend to a length of 72 feet but their height and depth, one ft each way, do not show good proportions. The steps are made of large slabs of black stone, the polish of which may still be admired.\textsuperscript{153}

On either side of the rectangular hall is a room 31 feet 3 inches square. The room on the eastern side has two bathrooms attached to it, which are also connected with the room on the eastern side of the royal domed hall. In the eastern wing of the palace there was probably a hall corresponding to the one in the western wing, which has been identified as a mosque. But this part of
the palace was completely destroyed and even the enclosure wall has been restored recently. Beyond this empty space towards the north, the ruins of an octagonal room have been found which corresponds in plan to the royal octagonal room with the tiger's effigies in the western wing. The remains of walls indicate that, this room was larger in dimensions than the latter and as its windows opened on the forecourt (peshgah), the king and the ladies may have watched from it the parade of the royal guards, or the retinues of the nobles and the dignitaries who were privileged to enter the enclosure of the royal palace and wait on the king at his residence. 

Adjoining the southern wall of the palace, almost at the back of the swimming bath, there are the remains of a hot bath. It has a massive arch in front, the dimensions of which are worthy of notice, the span being 22 feet and the height up to the apex 27 feet 6 inches. The opening of the arch was apparently filled with a glazed screen, such as were used in hot baths to stop air on the one hand and to admit light on the other. The bath has two floors, the upper comprising a square hall in the middle and two rectangular rooms, one on each side of the former, on its eastern and western sides. The square hall measures 22 feet on each side, whilst the rectangular rooms are each 22 feet by 7 feet 9 inches. The roof of the middle hall is vaulted, the ceiling being adorned by stuccowork. The ceilings of the side rooms are divided into three compartments, each having a conical vault of a pleasing design. Behind the rectangular room towards the west, there is a small chamber, measuring 7 feet 3 inches by 6 feet 9 inches, which was apparently used as a privy. A narrow
staircase leads to the lower floor of the bath, which has octagonal cisterns of artistic cusped design.\textsuperscript{155}

There were arcades in the eastern and southern sides of the court of the hot bath, the remains of which still exist. The arcade on the eastern side has a frontage of 52 feet. There was also a cistern in the open court, it was probably used as an open air bath in summer. In the close vicinity of the palace, towards the southwest, the remains of a royal pavilion are found. The pavilion is built on the brink of the plateau and commands a good view of the lowlands. The plan of the building comprises a hall in front with an octagonal room at its back and some more rooms on its northern side. The hall measures 46 feet 8 inches in length and 30 feet in width. It is divided into two aisles by pillars, the pedestals of which are intact. The pedestals are of black stone, beautifully carved and polished like the pedestals of pillars in the audience hall and the royal palace. The dadoes of the walls of this hall were deco-rated with mosaic-tiles, fragments of which may still be seen. Among the colours, yellow, green, and blue are prominent. The designs worked out on the tiles are chiefly floral.\textsuperscript{156}

The octagonal room at the back of the hall was crowned by a lofty dome. Internally each side of the octagon measures 11 feet 3 inches and 16 feet 9 inches externally. There are projections on each side of the room; those towards the north and the west have openings at their backs to admit light and air and also to afford a view of the country below. Towards the interior of the room, the projections have arches, in building which the architect has shown a
fine sense of proportion. Their span is 7 feet 2 inches and their height up to the apex 17 feet 6 inches. The rooms adjoining the northern and southern sides of the hall are much ruined. The octagonal pavilion, the hall and the rooms adjoining it formed a sort of annexe to the royal palace, which was occupied by one of the consorts of the king, or by some royal prince and princess.¹⁵⁷

On the north side a staircase from the base of the rooms of the pavilion leads down to some underground halls and chambers, which were used either for residence in summer or for storage of arms and other royal paraphernalia. By a descent of seven steps a landing is reached near the western end of which steps again start towards both the north and the south. The northern steps descend to a hall, which measures 30 feet 6 inches in length and 11 feet 3 inches in breadth. To the south of this hall, there is another hall, the dimensions of which are: length 31 feet 3 inches, width 11 feet 3 inches. In clearing the rubbish from the former hall, steps were found, which originally led towards the lowlands. To the north of this hall, there is a room, which measures 14 feet 6 inches by 10 feet. Farther toward the north is a square chamber, measuring 13 feet 4 inches each way. The ceiling of the chamber has a conical shape, divided into eight concave compartments. Adjoining this room towards the north, there is another small chamber, square in plan, which measures 6 feet 6 inches on each side. It has a round vaulted ceiling. From the landing, the steps as alluded to above, descend towards the south as well, and another series of rooms is approached, the total length of which, north to
south, is 83 feet 3 inches. These rooms have a long apartment in the middle, which has however, assumed a cross-shaped plan owing to projections from the middle of its eastern and western sides. The length of this apartment is 46 feet 3 inches and its breadth, excluding the projections, 15 feet 8 inches. The ceiling is vaulted in the form of a barrel. Beyond the western projection of this apartment is an entrance room or porch, because steps descend to its floor from three sides, the north, the south, and the west.\footnote{158}

The middle apartment has double rooms towards both the north and the south, which are of uniform plan and dimensions. These double rooms have a rectangular apartment at the back and a square one in front, the two being joined together by an arch. The dimensions of each of the rectangular apartments in the back are; length- 27 feet 3 inches, breadth-13 feet 10 inches, while each of the square apartments in front measures 14 feet approximately each way. Outside the walls of the palace, towards the south, is a well, near the head of which a high reservoir is built. The reservoir was filled with water drawn from the well by large leather buckets to which ropes were attached. Pairs of oxen were yoked to pull the ropes of the water buckets from the well. Baked clay pipelines as well as narrow channels, built in brick and lime, carried the water to the various apartments of the palace; traces of both the pipelines and the brick and lime channels still exist.\footnote{159}

**The Hazar Kothri (Thousand Cells) and the Subterranean Passage.**

At a short distance to the south of the royal palace is another group of underground rooms, which are styled the Hazar Kothri. The rooms do not
number one thousand, but the designation is based on a tradition that this part of the fort was at one time honeycombed with underground vaults and secret passages. These vaults are approached by steps from three directions north, east and west. On entering by the northern steps a large rectangular room is reached which measures 31 feet lengthwise and 12 feet breadthwise. It is flanked by two small chambers, one each towards the east and the west. Both the chambers are of uniform dimensions, each measuring 12 feet by 5 feet. Adjoining the large rectangular room is another towards the south, which is more spacious than the former and measures 48 feet 3 inches in length and 14 feet 1 inch in width. The ceiling of this hall is vaulted, being divided into compartments by arches, which spring from masonry piers, and overlap one another in the middle of the ceiling.\textsuperscript{160}

This hall has three apartments adjoining its southern side; the middle one is of larger dimensions than those on each side of it and it measures 14 feet 8 inch by 14 feet 1 inch. The dimensions of the two side rooms are uniform. From the southern side of the monument a subterranean passage begins which has a vaulted masonry ceiling up to a distance of 70 feet. The width of the passage for these 70 feet is 6 feet 8 inches. Farther on there is a flight of steps which bring down the passage 13 feet lower than its previous level, and henceforward it is cut in the laterite rock and has no masonry covering its walls or ceiling. From the steps the passage extends to a distance of about 90 feet in the solid rock until it opens on the moat. At a distance of 19 feet from the steps there is a well, the walls of which are 9 feet 6 inches wide
on all four sides, but as they have not been built at right angles to one another, they present the form of a trapezoid. The well has an opening at the top for light and air. The arrangement of the rooms and the passage shows that they were constructed as a safety exit for use if ever the surrender of the fort might seem imminent.\textsuperscript{161}

\textbf{The Old Naubat Khana.}

This building from its position and style of architecture appears to be the abode of one of the commandants of the fort, rather than a Naubat Khana, (Music Hall), because below this building the city wall joins the ramparts of the fort and at that point a close watch would have been necessary for the purpose of defense. The name Naubat Khana, like several other names associated with the old buildings of the fort, may have been given in modern times. The plan of the building includes a spacious hall with a side room towards the west and a platform in front. At the northern end of the platform is a large reservoir to which water was supplied from the well on its western side.

The main hall of the building measures 45 feet 6 inches by 25 feet 3 inches, and it has three arched openings towards the platform (north). The dimensions of the arches of the openings are uniform, the span being 12 feet 6 inches and the height up to the apex 16 feet 8 inches. The ceiling of the hall is divided into compartments by arches built across its width. The span of these arches is 15 feet 8 inches and the height up to the apex 17 feet 11 inches. The hall has deeply recessed windows in its back, which open on the moat and command a good view of the city wall and the buildings of the town on that side.\textsuperscript{162}
The side room, on the west side of the hall, measures 25 feet 3 inches in length and 18 feet 10 inches in width. It has a vaulted ceiling, which is shaped like a casket, the flat part of the vault being divided into small squares by plasterwork with a view to decoration. This room also has a recessed window in its back and a projection towards the west. There is also a large arched opening towards the platform to match with the openings of the main hall in that direction. The platform in front of the building is quite extensive and it would have been pleasant, particularly in summer, to sit there and to enjoy the view of the splashing waters of the reservoir at its foot. The latter is square in plan, 81 feet each way and 6 feet deep. But there is a landing, running on all four sides, in the middle of the depth of the reservoir, which shows, that it was also used for gamming, the water being kept at different levels according to the practice and the age of the swimmers.  

This is a massive structure, built of black trap masonry finely chiselled and laid in lime. The arches show a large variety, both in the size of the spans and in the form of their heads. The gateway is defended by bastions which are round in shape, but increase in girth from top to base, apparently with a view to maintaining their architectural strength. The outer arch of the gateway is of considerable dimensions, its span being 17 feet 10 inches and its height up to the apex 29 feet 6 inches. The arch of the entrance itself, which is built behind two ogee arches outlined on the wall, is, however, smaller in dimensions than the outer arch, and has a span of 10 feet 3 inches, and its height up to the apex is 17 feet 6 inches. From this arch a covered passage, 14 feet 4 inches
wide and 40 feet 4 inches long, extends to the outer opening of the gateway, which faces the lowlands. The roof of the covered passage has fallen down, but the arches, which supported it, are intact, and their dimensions and shape are identical with those of the arch of the entrance. On either side of the covered passage are halls for the accommodation of guards but, the openings of the hall on the left (south) are blocked with masonry and hence, its exact inner dimensions cannot be determined with certainty. The openings of the hall on the right (north) are however, not blocked and its inner plan comprises a single apartment, 37 feet 2 inches by 9 feet 3 inches, with deeply recessed niches in its back. The roof of this hall has fallen down.

Close to the gateway, towards the north, are the remains of some rooms and a house, the roofs of all of which have collapsed. The walls of these structures are, however, intact and those forming their facades have arches with pleasing proportions. The house has a high plinth and its front contains five arches, the middle one of which has a wide span, being 15 feet 3 inches at the base. The arch-heads are reduced to the span to 12 feet 3 inches, as opposed to 15 feet 3 inches at the base. The house has several apartments in its interior, their total dimensions being: length 60 feet 8 inches, depth 19 feet 6 inches. There are rooms built adjoining it towards the south.

The average level of the lowlands, immediately below the edge of the plateau on which the royal palace was built, is nearly 200 feet lower than that of the plateau and to facilitate the ascent sixty stages are built which make a
not uncomfortable approach to the gateway. The stages are lined with masonry and on one side, towards the east, defended by a massive wall from the top of which missiles could be thrown on to the enemy and his advance adequately checked. On the lowlands, remains of some old houses and of a gateway can be seen. The arch of the latter is in a comparatively fair state of preservation and its proportions show a refined taste. The span of the arch is 9 feet and its height up to the apex 14 feet. In the midst of the rock wall the opening of a tunnel may also be seen from which during the monsoons the rain water of the town and the plateau of the fort flows down to the lowlands and ultimately fills up the tank which is at the back of the north-western wall of the fort. The surplus water of the tank was drained off through a sluice to the Paniya Khandaq (moat) between the KalyanI Burj and the Purana Qil'a. The sluice and the remains of an embankment may still be seen in the western and northern sides of the tank respectively. The tank also replenished through a channel the well built in the Purana Qil'a, from which water was distributed by pipe lines to the various buildings in that area of the fort.167

The Long Gun Bastion and Virasangayya's Temple.

A spur of the plateau of the fort runs in a northwesterly direction almost along the middle of the lowlands. At the tip of the spur a bastion has been built on which is mounted a gun of extraordinary length. It measures 29 feet from the butt to the muzzle, and has a circumference of 6 feet near the former. The bore of the gun is 6 inches, but the diameter across its mouth, including the thickness of the metal, is 1 ft 9 inches. The gun is beautifully carved, the patterns representing the chain, the bead (Rudraloha) leaves with stalks, and
birds. The workmanship is in a Hindu style and the gun was probably made by mechanics professing that faith. On the eastern side of the bastion is a temple, the sikhara (spire) of which has a modern appearance. As the buildings of religious shrines are frequently restored and renovated through the zeal of votaries, it is not unlikely that the temple, in spite of its modern features, may have a long history and it may have existed in some other form even before the coming of Muslims into the Deccan.\(^{168}\)

At present its plan comprises a court, with arcades on its southern and western sides, a hall, and two chambers. The court measures 52 feet 6 inches from east to west and 25 feet 3 inches from north to south. The arcades are rather narrow, having a depth of 6 feet only. They have six openings towards the court on the eastern side and two on the western. The hall and the two chambers are built along the northern side of the court, and their joint base measures 46 feet 9 inches externally. The hall, like the arcades, is narrow in plan, having a length of 25 feet in contrast to a breadth of 7 feet. The two chambers, which are built one at each end of the hall, on the east and the west, are uniform in dimensions and measure 9 feet 8 inches by 8 feet 10 inches each. The western chamber contains the samadhi of a local hero, known as Virasangayya, who is said to have been a Lingayat. A linga, the Saivite emblem of worship, is also to be seen in this chamber, but it is said that the latter was installed there at a later date. The eastern chamber contains no icon but it has a cell below its floor, which is approached by steps
built in the base of the building towards the west, entrance being from outside the chamber. The cell may have been used for meditation.\textsuperscript{169}

**The Gunpowder Magazine.**

There were a large number of magazines in the fort for storing arms and explosive materials, the remains of which may still be noticed behind the ramparts near all the important bastions. The principal magazine, however, is situated on the left side of the road which goes from the Gumbad Darwaza to the Mandu Gate. In its present condition the magazine comprises two blocks, with a terrace between, which has vaults below it. The terrace measures 45 feet 6 inches by 26 feet 6 inches and has two circular apertures to give air and light to the chambers below. The latter are two in number and measure 35 feet 6 inches by 19 feet 3 inches jointly. The walls of these chambers are more than 3 ft in thickness, and as they are built below the ground level, it appears that the vaults were meant for storing gunpowder. The space between the western and eastern blocks of the magazine is 100 feet approximately.\textsuperscript{170}

The western wing comprises seven vaults towards the south and five double rooms towards the north. Three of the latter have arches opening on to the court. These arches show a good sense of proportion in their dimensions, the span of each being 12 feet 6 inches and its height up to the apex 17 feet 3 inches. The depth of the double rooms measuring from the western end of the court is 35 feet. Of the seven vaults, the five adjoining the double rooms have bastion-like constructions towards the court. Their inner plan is also circular, and each vault on the floor level measures 29 feet 6 inches across. The bastion-like shape was apparently adopted to make the building adequately
strong for the storage of high explosives. The remaining two vaults of this wing, which are built at its southern end, have a masonry wall towards the court, but their inner plan and dimensions are the same as those of the five vaults mentioned above. In the western wing there are also two staircases leading to the roof, which has fallen down. One staircase is between vaults 1 and 2, starting from the north, and the other between vaults 3 and 4, following the same order. Until quite recently remnants of old matchlocks, muskets, small camion, and bullets could be seen in these vaults, but they are now stored in other parts of the fort.\footnote{171}

The northern wing of this block has a plan uniform with that of the double rooms at the northern end of the western wing, and it appears that both of them were built at the same time, while the five bastion-shaped vaults were added afterwards. The external dimensions of the northern wing are: length 94 feet 3 inches, width 42 feet. This wing has five arched openings towards the court and also a staircase leading to the terrace. The staircase is built between the second and the third arches, starting from the east. Close to the northern wing, in the open court, there are steps leading to some underground chambers. The eastern block of the magazine has a rectangular plan externally and measures 170 feet from north to south, and 40 feet from east to west. The interior of the building is divided into five apartments, which have a square plan at the floor level, but are crowned by circular vaults, the transition from the square plan being arranged by squinches and overlapping arches built at corners. The plinth of this block is high, and access to the apartments
is through doors of rather small size, each being 6 feet 3 inches high and 4 feet wide. There are two staircases leading to the roof in this block also. For the purpose of defense the magazine had an enclosure wall and a ditch all round, the remains of which may be noticed at the back of the eastern block. The entrance was through an arched doorway, still visible when one approaches the magazine from the road towards the east. 172

ii. The Town Fortifications and the Monuments within.

As it has already been stated, Bidar was a town of considerable strategic importance long before the transfer of the seat of Bahmani government by Ahmad Shah al-Wali from Gulbarga in CE 1429. 173 As such, it must have been defended by a wall of the Hindu style of architecture, similar to those to be noticed round pre-Islamic forts of the Deccan. But as the requirements of the capital would have called for a larger area within the defensive system, the old enclosure wall of the Hindu period may have been demolished and new fortifications built around the expanded town. The present ramparts and bastions of the town are however of the later Bahmani period, (last quarter of the 15th century CE), when use of cannons as war weapons came into vogue in the Deccan. 174 A gun placed on the Munda Burj, which will be described later in this chapter bears an inscription mentioning the name of the gun confirmis this view. There is also a strong tradition that the parapets and batteries of Bidar town were built by Barid Shahi kings. 175

Bidar was not only under continuous menace from the rival kingdoms of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, and Golconda but it was under siege by Ismail Adil Shah in 1529 C.E, by Murtada Nizam Shah in 1579 C.E and by Ibrahim Adil
Shah II in 1619 C.E during whom, the defences the town were repaired and extended. The inscribed tablets fixed to several gates show that Mughal governors also after the capture of the town by Aurangzeb in 1656 CE added to the fortifications of the place. The strengthening of the defenses of the town appears to have been made during the regime of early Asaf Jhahi rulers also.

At present the fortifications of the town have a pentagonal plan; the two sides facing the west and the southwest run almost straight, but those towards the southeast and northeast are crooked, and the defenses bend and project in an irregular manner at short distances according to the shape of the edge of the plateau. The northern side of the town touches the fosse of the fort and extends from a point opposite the Naubat Khana to the first gate of the fort. The town fortifications terminate at both ends of its northern side, for at those points they join the works of the fort.

The defenses comprise a glacis, a moat, which is 33 feet 6 inches deep and 51 feet wide, and a scarp. The last is built of black trap masonry laid in lime and crowned by arch-shaped battlements. The total height of the scarp including the battlements is 42 feet from the bottom of the moat. The battlements are loopholed for the use of both muskets and small-sized guns, which can be fired at various angles according to the approach of the enemy. Behind the battlements is a passage, running almost the entire length of the ramparts, but varying in width from 55 feet to 17 feet according to the vulnerability of the line of fortifications to the attack of the foe. For further
defense there are bastions, very massively built and arranged at appropriate
distances from one another. Originally they were all surmounted by heavy and
longrange guns, but now these are to be seen on only a few bastions.\textsuperscript{179}

The total number of bastions is thirty-seven, and in addition there are
eight batteries on which are placed smaller pieces of artillery. The town is
entered by five gateways, the names of which are as follows:

1. The Shah Ganj Darwaza
2. The Fath Darwaza
3. The Mangalpet Darwaza
4. The Dulhan Darwaza
5. The Talghat Darwaza.

The circuit of the ramparts is nearly three miles, and the area of the
town less than a square mile, although at some points it stretches east to west
and north to south quite a mile. Starting from the north-west side of the town
the ramparts extend almost straight to the Shah Ganj Darwaza, a distance of
some 500 yards in which they are defended by two bastions only. The
passage behind the parapets in this portion of the fortifications is only 17 feet
wide, thus indicating that owing to the close vicinity of the fortwalls, which were
surmounted by heavy artillery; military strategy did not require the building of a
wider passage in which to post troops in large numbers for defense.

\textbf{The Shah Ganj Darwaza}

The Shah Ganj Darwaza is a comparatively modern name given to the
Makki Darwaza (Mecca Gate) as it faces Mecca. During the regime of Nawab
Nair-ud-Daula Bahadur a grain market called the Shah Ganj, was constructed
outside the town near this gate; hence the change in the name from the Makki Darwaza to the Shah Ganj Darwaza. The gateway comprises two arches, one of which is fitted with a pair of massive wooden doors studded with iron knobs and bands. The dimensions of the inner and outer arches are uniform, the span being 12 feet 7 inches and the height up to the apex 17 feet. The total height of the front wall of the gateway including the parapet is 34 feet 6 inches.\textsuperscript{180}

**The Munda Burj.**

Munda Burj, which is only 360 yards from Shah Ganj Darwaza, is the most massive of all the bastions of the town. It is built in two stages, which are approached by steps built along the back wall of the bastion itself. The second stage is surmounted by a large gun which has an inscription in six ornamental panels on its body. The third and fourth panels of the inscription contain the name of the gun as Top-i-Mahmud Shahi and also the date of its completion in Muharram 1000 H, (October, C.E. 1591), during Qasim Barid Shah's reign. It is not unlikely that the gun was originally manufactured following a plain design during Mahmud Shah Bamani-II’s reign (C.E. 1482-1518), but was improved in calibre and embellished with calligraphic panels at the instance of Qasim Band II in 1000 H. The gun industry received a distinct impetus during the rule of the Barid Shahi kings, for the magnificent specimens mounted on the Mandu Gate bastion, the Purana Qil'a bastion, and the Lal Burj bear the names of the kings of this dynasty.\textsuperscript{181, 182}
Fath Darwaza

Fath Darwaza is at a distance of approximately one kilometer from the Munda Burj and as the fortifications of the town are exposed to attack from the tableland on the south, the width of the passage on this side has been increased from 51 to 56 feet at certain places and seven bastions have been constructed at vulnerable points. The Fath Darwaza, being the principal entrance to the town was designed with considerable care. It has two solidly built towers in front of the bridge over the moat beyond which is a tortuous passage planned between the walls of the gateway, the entire arrangement presenting the form of a barbican. The gateway itself comprises two lofty arches with a passage, 17 feet in length and 12 feet 6 inches in width, between them. The gateway has a vaulted roof and at one end it is fitted with a wooden door, the iron spikes and bands of which are of the same style as those of the Shah Ganj Darwaza. The sidewalls of the inner facade of the gateway show a batter which has added further to the solidity of the building. The name Fath Darwaza was given to this gateway by Aurangzeb, when his forces marched through it triumphantly in 1656. Earlier the gateway was called the Nauras Darwaza, but this also cannot be its original name, for the title nauras was coined by Ibrahim Adil Shah II, who probably renamed the gateway as Nauras Darwaza after his conquest of Bidar in 1619 C.E.\textsuperscript{183}

Mangalpet Darwaza.

From the Fath Darwaza to the Mangalpet Darwaza, which is built at a distance of a little over a half Kilometer from the former, the fortifications have a zigzag plan owing to the abrupt curves of the edge of the plateau on which
they are built. There are altogether five bastions and one battery between the Fath and Mangalpet gateways.

Mangalpet Darwaza is perhaps the old name of the gateway, given to it because of its vicinity to the suburb wherein a market was held every Tuesday. Pet being an abbreviated form of the Sanskrit word Penth, meaning a market, and Mangal corresponding to Tuesday. A new market styled the Mahmud Ganj was established at the site some time later, for an inscription of Nawab Nasir-ud-Daula Bahadur, which is carved on the Darwaza, mentions the name Mahmud Ganj. The latter name seems to have been used only for a short time because the old name Mangalpet still survives, while Mahmud Ganj is entirely forgotten. The Mangalpet Darwaza, as it stands at present, was rebuilt by Shams-ud-Din Khan alias Abbas Sahib, the Taluqdar of Bidar, in 1850 C.E.  

The general style of the building is the same as those of the other gateways, namely, the entrance comprising two arches with a space of 9 feet between them, and two bastions which with the enclosure wall form a sort of barbican in front of the gateway. The dimensions of the two arches are uniform, viz. span 12 feet 8 inches and height up to the apex 18 feet 1 inch. The door is strengthened by iron bars and studded with iron spikes to repel attack by elephants.

The Dulhan Darwaza.

The distance between the Mangalpet Darwaza and the next gateway towards the north, styled the Dulhan Darwaza, is three and a half Kilometer approximately and strengthened by the construction of seven bastions and as
many batteries. The bastions must have originally been furnished with heavy
guns, while the batteries were apparently meant for lighter pieces of short
range.

The Dulhan Darwaza seems to have been rebuilt in comparatively
recent times, its wooden door is still missing, besides there are no battlements
on the roof of the gateway. The span of the arches of the entrance is 12 feet 8
inches, and their height up to the apex 21 feet 2 inches. The passage from the
entrance has an abrupt curve towards the outside (east) and is further
defended by two massive towers, one on each side of the approach. The
lands to the east of the Darwaza lie 100 to 150 feet lower than the verge of the
town plateau. As the edge of the plateau to the northwest of the Dulhan
Darwaza is more abrupt than it is towards the southeast, the fortifications have
been built with sharp turns between this gateway and the Talghat Darwaza,
which is situated at a distance of half a Kilometer from it. The line of
fortifications is however, defended by a bastion at each turn and there are
altogether six bastions between these two gateways. 185

The Talghat Darwaza.

The Talghat Darwaza is the most picturesque of all the gateways of the
town, both as regards the style of its architecture and the motley character of
the traffic. As the decline from the tableland of the town is considerable at this
point, the path has been divided by terraced levels and paved with stones.
This gateway, like the others previously described, has two lofty arches, one
on each side of its inner and outer faces. The space between these two
arches, which measure 16 feet 5 inches, has been roofed over. The span of
the arches is approximately 10 feet and their height up to the apexes 17 feet 2 inches. The total height of the building including the parapet is 28 feet 10 inches. At the head of the path are two bastions, which form the principal defense of the gateway. These two bastions are octagonal in plan, but there are two others, which are round in shape and built midway for the defense of the path, one being on each side of it. The town enclosure beyond the Talghat Darwaza up to the point where it joins the ramparts of the fort consists of a parapet only, this being considered a sufficient defense because the fall from the plateau of the town to the lowlands below is almost perpendicular, and ascent would be extremely difficult. This parapet is, however, provided with loopholes which open both vertically and horizontally so as to enable the garrison to fire at assailants from different positions according to the approach of the latter. 186

The Chaubara.

This is a cylindrical tower built in the middle of the town where the two principal thoroughfares of Bidar cross each other, the tower thus constitutes the hub of the town. One of the two thoroughfares extends from the fort to the Fath Darwaza, its alignment being north to south, and the other connects the Mangalpet and the Shah Ganj Darwazas, the direction of the latter being east to west, excepting the little diversion near the Shah Ganj Darwaza. The plan of the town is more or less on the gridiron principle, there being parallel streets, linked together by roads, which run crosswise.

The tower is reported to have been built in the pre-Islamic period, but its style of architecture is Islamic and it was probably constructed as an
observation post simultaneously with the other fortifications of the town by Ahmad Shah al-Wali, or his immediate successors. It rises 71 feet above the ground level, and from the top commands a view of the entire plateau and also of the lowlands stretching beyond it in every direction. The prefix Chau in Hindi as well as in Persian signifies the four directions, while bara in Persian means a fortified place and in Hindi (bara) a house. The word therefore in both these languages means a central building facing in four directions. The tower has a circular base, 180 feet in circumference and 16 feet 9 inches in height, with arched niches built along its lower parts. 187

The steps, which lead to the terrace of the basement, start from a door, which faces the east. The girth of the tower at the terrace level is 114 feet and a space of 8 feet 5 inches has been left all round it in order to enable visitors to walk round at the foot. In the northern side of the building on this level is a door from which a winding staircase comprising eighty steps leads to the top of the tower. The summit is 53 feet above the basement, and the parapet round it rises 3 feet 6 inches still higher. The circumference of the tower along the base of the upper parapet is 85 feet 7 inches. The entire tower was built of black trap masonry laid in lime and strengthened by circular bands at two places in its height. The staircase of the tower has an arch shaped vaulted ceiling, which is not to be found in pre-Islamic buildings. The tower has four rectangular openings pierced in its walls to let in light and air. 188

The Madrasa of Mahmud Gawan.

Some half a kilometer from the Chaubara towards the fort a timeworn but magnificent structure the Madrasa of Mahmud Gawan can be noticed on
the left side of the road. It is not only the most imposing building of the Bahmani period, but in its plan and in the general style of its architecture it is a unique monument of its kind in India. Mahmud Gawan, the founder of the Madrasa, had himself come from Gilan, and as even during his stay in the Deccan he was continually in correspondence with eminent personages in Persia, it is not unlikely that he brought engineers and craftsmen from that country to design this building. The stately round minarets, which existed here, or such grand entrances as that which once adorned the eastern facade came into the Deccan from Persia. The Madrasa was built in 1472 C.E., Mahmud Gawan not only staffed it with eminent divines, philosophers and scientists but also equipped it with a large library of 3,000 valuable manuscripts. The building suffered great damage from lightning in 1107 H (1696 C.E.), which deprived it of half of its front and half of its southern wing and it deteriorated further subsequently through neglect and climatic conditions.

The building has now been thoroughly cleaned, and an enclosure wall built with a view to stopping the encroachments of undesirable visitors. The roofs have been made water tight, the gaping cleft in the facade repaired, the decayed trelliswork of the arches has been appropriately restored, the interiors of the halls and the inner court have been cleared of debris and silt and the plinth of the building has been fully exposed. As the left half of the entrance arch of the southern hall had perished, either in a thunderstorm or in the gunpowder explosion, alluded to above, the masonry of the right half of the arch has been propped up by a massive pier and restored.
Notwithstanding the extensive decay and destruction, it still retains enough of the original architectural features and decorative work to afford some notion of its pristine splendour and beauty. The building has a high basement, but to make the approach convenient two terraces have been built in front of it, each about 4 feet high, the total height of both being 8 feet. The main entrance has vanished but the plan shows that the whole comprised an outer arch 21 feet in span and an inner arch 10 feet 5 inches in span, with a recess 5 feet deep between the two arches which corresponded to the thickness of the walls flanking the entrance on either side. The height up to the apex of the outer arch must have been more or less the same as the average height of the three main arches in the interior of the building, that is some 45 feet from the floor level. Beyond the entrance, there was a portico square in plan at the base, measuring 15 feet 4 inches each way. But, as the corners of the square are cut by masonry projections, the plan at the floor level looks almost octagonal. The portico above its roof probably had a dome similar to those above the roofs of the semi decagonal projections in the northern, western, and southern wings of the building. These latter rise to a height of 90 feet approximately from the floor level. From the portico two passages, each 8 feet 8 inches wide, lead to the interior of the building. The roofs of the passages have perished, but the pavements and the remains of walls still exist. 193

The minaret at the northern end of the facade and the wall adjoining it towards the south are comparatively the best-preserved portions of the
Madrasa, although their tile-decoration and trelliswork have survived only in fragments. The minaret has an octagonal base of 67 feet 4 inches in girth at the ground level. But as it has a round shape at the point whence it springs, five bands of carved masonry have been built above the octagonal base, these gradually decreasing in dimensions in order to fit in with the circumference of the tower, which is 46 feet immediately above the uppermost band of the basement. The tower has three storeys, the first and second having balconies which project from the main body of the tower in a curvilinear form. The lower part of the Madrasa tower was originally decorated with encaustic tiles arranged in a chevron pattern, the colours being yellow, light green, and white. Many of them have fallen down owing to rainwater, which percolated through fissures in the lime beds into which the tiles were fixed, but a considerable number of them are still intact and these convey a clear idea of the decorative scheme of the tower. In each storey, at the neck point there was a band of calligraphic devices containing religious texts. These were reproduced in mosaic tiles, the letters being white fixed to a deep blue background, on which some floral designs in green and yellow were also worked out. Above this band immediately below the balcony were horizontal courses of light green tiles, apparently to give the eye some relief after looking at the intricate pattern of the calligraphic motifs. The balconies in their present condition are denuded of any kind of decoration, nor have they any trace of the parapets, which originally must have been an attractive feature of the
ornamentation of the tower. The height of the tower up to the balcony of the first storey is 78 feet 8 inches.\textsuperscript{194}

The tilework of the second storey of the tower has almost completely perished and it is difficult to determine the designs of the lower two bands. The third band probably, like the neckband of the first stage, contained religious texts reproduced in an ornamental style of writing, while the portion immediately below the balcony of this stage would have contained horizontal courses of tiles of a single colour only (green). The height of the second balcony from the first is 29 feet and from the ground level 107 feet 8 inches. The tower has a tapering form, gradually decreasing in girth as it rises. The tile decoration third storey of the tower has completely disappeared. The height of the tower from the second balcony to the base of the dome is 12 feet, the latter rises some 8 feet higher still and is crowned with a pinnacle 3 feet high. The total height of the tower is thus 131 feet from the ground level. As regards architectural effect, the top of the tower looks somewhat dumpy.\textsuperscript{195}

The wall adjoining the tower towards the south forms the facade of a mosque built in the northeastern part of the building. This wall extends at present to a length of 59 feet 2 inches from the tower, and has an elevation of 65 feet approximately from the floor of the upper terrace. In order to produce an effect of light and shade in the building, the façade is divided into several compartments, two of which have deeply recessed arches with screens of trellis-work at their backs, and the lowest compartment has a series of double
windows, the upper row being arch-shaped and the lower rectangular. The windows of this compartment are also adorned with trelliswork.\textsuperscript{196}

The second or the middle compartment also contains arches, the sidewalls and spandrels of which, like those of the top compartment, were adorned with encaustic tiles. The middle arch of this compartment is of the same dimensions as those of the first, but the height of the two side arches, towards the right and left of it, is a little smaller. Further, in the panels near the northern and southern ends of the compartment there are pairs of tiny windows, the top ones being rectangular and the lower arch-shaped. The third compartment, which adjoins the plinth of the building, comprises five rectangular panels, which are rather slim in their proportions. The middle one has a small doorway in its lower part and an arch-shaped window above it. The window has a jali (net) screen. The next two panels, one on each side of the middle one, have pairs of windows, the top window being arch shaped and the lower one rectangular. These windows also are adorned with jalis of delicate patterns.\textsuperscript{197}

The interior of the mosque has the plain but lofty style of architecture appropriate to a place of worship. The building comprises a single hall, 49 feet 9 inches in length and 24 feet 10 inches in width. The prayer niche (mihrab) is built in the thickness of the western wall in the form of a semi-decagon, while towards the north there is another projection of rectangular design, measuring 19 feet 2 inches by 11 feet 10 inches. This latter projection is separated from the main hall by a massive arch. The ceiling of the mosque is vaulted, divided
into three compartments by two stately arches, which rise to a height of 33 feet 8 inches from the floor level. The walls and arches of the mosque are very strongly built, having a thickness varying from 4 to 5 feet. The jali screens built at different heights from the floor in the northern and eastern walls of the mosque admit subdued light to the interior. Corresponding to the mosque, and adjoining the minaret at the southeastern angle of the Madrasa, was the library, which has completely perished. The inner court is reached on entering the building through the opening where the main gateway once stood. The inner court measures 103 feet 2 inches square and has a dodecagonal (12 sides) cistern in the middle. Each side of the latter measures 7 feet in length, the total circumference of the cistern thus, being 84 feet and its present depth is only 3 feet 1 inch.  

At the extreme eastern end of this wing, adjoining the mosque described above, is a square hall with a dome shaped ceiling which is on a level with the ceilings of the cubicles in the uppermost storey of the building. The hall measures 27 feet 2 inches on each side at the base, but its corners are slightly cut and further there are projections in the middle of each side, which have given a pleasing design to the floor. The walls are plain, but the series of receding arches built as squinches at the corners of the hall, and the band of niches below the drum of the vault, combined with tracery of an elegant design in the northern projection of the hall, take away any impression of monotony from the building. An opening in the eastern projection originally gave access to the mosque, but it is now blocked. At the northeastern and
northwestern corners, of the hall are doorways leading to small chambers, which may have served as storerooms for the occupant of the hall.\textsuperscript{200}

Corresponding to this hall there was another in the southern wing of the building, which has completely disappeared. Beyond the latter two halls the plan of the northern and the southern wings of the Madrasa is uniform, comprising a large hall in the middle with pairs rooms built on either side of it. These rooms rise to three storeys and the plan of all the rooms is the same, each divided into three apartments. In the front, they have a small veranda with an arched opening towards the court. The dimensions of the arch are height up to the apex being 14 feet 2 inches and the span 11 feet 6 inches; but the depth of the veranda is insignificant, being 6 feet 1 inch only. Behind the veranda is a room, measuring 10 feet 8 inches by 7 feet 9 inches. At the back of the latter, there is another room, almost square at its base, the dimensions being 10 feet 8 inches by 10 feet 4 inches. The back rooms of these apartments have also projections fitted with windows opening on the grounds surrounding the building. These projections are rectangular in plan, their dimensions being 9 feet 7 inches by 5 feet 4 inches. The windows of the projections were originally filled with jolts of elegant design. There are thirty-six suites of these rooms in all the three storeys of the building and according to the estimate made above, if we consider each suite to be intended to provide accommodation for three students, the Madrasa was capable of accommodating 108 students.\textsuperscript{201}
Every middle hall had a lofty arch opening on the court, the dimensions of which in the northern and southern wings are uniform, and the height up to the apex is 40 feet and the span 26 feet 8 inches. The arch of the western hall is still loftier, measuring 46 feet 3 inches from the floor level. The plan of the middle halls on all three sides is uniform, having a rectangular apartment in the front with a semi-decagonal projection at the back. Each of the front apartments towards the north and south measures 34 feet 3 inches by 26 feet 8 inches, and their semi-decagonal projections have a uniform depth of 16 feet. The ceilings of the front apartments were vaulted, in the form of a barrel, but instead of being round at the top they have the shape of an arch.\textsuperscript{202}

The semi-decagonal projections are separated from the front apartments by means of arches, although they are a little smaller in height than the arches in the front, the height of the former being 34 feet in contrast to 40 feet which is the height of the front arches of the hall in the northern and southern wings. The projections had jali screens in their backs, which had decayed badly owing to climatic conditions and to vandalism.\textsuperscript{203}

There were rooms for professors at the north-west and south-west corners of the building. These rooms are built on the ground floor as well as in the upper storey. The rooms on the ground floor are approached from the court by doors of modest dimensions, opening into a porch, which gives access to the central apartment and also contains a staircase leading to the rooms in the upper floor of the building. The plan of the central apartment is almost square at the base, measuring 17 feet 5 inches each side, but the four
projections on each of its four sides, and four more at each of its four corners, have given it an octagonal form. The walls of these projections at their tops have formed a ring for the support of the circular ceiling of the central apartment. The ceiling has the shape of a shallow vault. The four projections at the corners are square in plan, measuring 9 to 10 feet on each side and also traces of shelves for books. The projections on the four sides of the central apartment are also square in plan, although a little smaller in dimensions than the corner ones.\textsuperscript{204}

The semi-decagonal projections of the middle halls of the Madrasa have vaulted ceilings; but the vaults, although visible above the roof have more imposing domes built over them. The latter rise from octagonal bases and their height on an average is 36 feet 6 inches from the level of the roof and 86 feet from the floor of the Madrasa. The base of the dome above the northern projection has a girth of 80 feet at the roof level, and a height of 20 feet 6 inches up to the springing-point of the dome. The latter itself at this point has a circumference of 72 feet, thus a masonry band of 4 feet is left all round to take the thrust. The base of the dome for further security is embedded some 6 feet in the thickness of the roof.\textsuperscript{205}

There is a platform all round to make the structure still more secure, and in consideration of the height of the walls, which rise 56 feet approximately up to the parapet, has given a batter to them which is quite apparent in the northern and southern walls. It is further strengthened at the corners of the building by short but massive buttresses. The minarets in the
front and the semi-decagonal projections crowned with domes, in the middle of the walls, also serve the same purpose, but at the same time, as we stated above, they add to the stately appearance of the building. The exterior of the Madrasa has a sombre look towards the north, south, and west, on account of its weather-stained walls, but as they were originally ornamented with bands of mosaic tiles and panels of delicate tracery, the artistic effect would have been quite different at that time. The walls of the Madrasa measure externally 242 feet from east to west and 220 feet from north to south. They are built of rough-tooled trap masonry, which has been covered with plaster and emblazoned with tiles.

**The Mint.**

There is a small dome to the south of the Madrasa called the Mint (Taksal), the dimensions of the structure are insignificant, measuring 13 feet on each side at the base internally. The walls of the building rise 12 feet from the ground level and are crowned by an elliptical dome. It has a circumference of 45 feet and a height of 7 feet above the walls. This small building might have been used for stamping coins, which would have been minted in a larger structure situated adjacent to it. But, no trace of a large building which can be identified as having been a mint is to be found in the vicinity.

**Takht-i-Kirmani.**

Nearby the Madrasa, proceeding towards the fort, there is a gateway built along the northern side of the main road. At present it has a hall at its back but originally it may have been connected with other apartments occupied by Hadrat Khalil-Ullah and his descendants, who migrated to Bidar.
from Kirman at the invitation of Ahmad Shah al-Wali in 834 H. (A.D. 1431). The building is now called the Takht-i-Kirmani (Throne of Kirman) on account of its containing a couch associated with the saint Khalil-Ullah.

The gateway has certain features of the Bahmani architecture, like the medallions and other motifs. The gateway has a large arch in the middle, rising 22 feet 6 inches from the threshold and having a span of 14 feet 9 inches. The facets of the columns supporting the arch head have given them a cluster like effect, the device being apparently copied from the carving of the stone columns of the medieval Hindu temples of the Deccan. The string of rudraksha beads carved on the border of the arch-head is another Hindu decorative motif. The spandrels of the arch are however, adorned with medallions and floral patterns of Muslim design.

The main arch has four smaller arches built in its sides, the latter being arranged in two rows, one above the other. At the back of the smaller arches are niches. The niches in the upper row are ornamental, for they are not accessible from any apartment of the building. Above the arches, the gateway has two bands of ornamental plasterwork and on the top a parapet of trefoil design. At each end of the parapet, is a miniature column lavishly adorned with niches on all four sides and crowned with an orb, which springs from lotus leaves. The threshold of the building comprises a sort of landing in the middle of the steps, which lead from the road to the hall. This landing is arranged in the recess of the main arch, the back wall of which is decorated with niches and the effigies of two tigers. The door of the hall is fitted with wooden
shutters of a plain design which may not be very old. The hall measures 30 feet 7 inches by 35 feet 7 inches, and is divided into three apartments by arches which are built across both its length and its breadth. The span of the arches built in the length of the hall is 10 feet, in contrast to the 8 feet 5 inches of the arches built across its width. The height of both is uniform that is 11 feet 10 inches from the floor to the apex. The arches rise from low masonry columns and support a flat ceiling.\textsuperscript{209}

In the middle of the hall is a platform of wood on which a couch is placed. The platform is 6 feet 9 inches wide, 8 feet 9 inches long, and 1 ft 5 inches high, being supported by round feet. The couch has a wooden frame, and the seat is to-day made of woven cotton tape. The dimensions of the couch are: length 6 feet, width 4 feet and height 1 ft 10 inches; but the back of the couch rises 2 feet 9 inches above the seat level, and it has a length of 4 feet 8 inches. The woodwork of the couch is elegantly carved and gilded in Persian style. The couch has also a canopy of cloth above it which is supported by poles fixed into the platform. This relic, on account of its association with the saint Khalil-Ullah, is held in great reverence by the people of Bidar.\textsuperscript{210}

\textbf{The Jami Masjid.}

Proceeding towards the Fath Darwaza from Chaubara, the Jami Masjid or the Assembly Mosque of the town can be approached. It is situated on the west side of the road, being enclosed by a modern wall with a gate in the front. The visitor has to ascend four steps in order to reach the inner court.
The courtyard has a path in the middle with a pair of flowerbeds on either side of it and another pair near the water cistern, which is close to the northern end of the court. The dimensions of the entire court are 144 feet 4 inches from north to south and 141 feet 8 inches from east to west. At the head of the court is a pavement two steps higher than the court itself and having a depth of 41 feet 3 inches. Votaries can approach the cistern for ablutions from the pavement as well as from the court side. The cistern has a masonry margin 3 feet 4 inches wide all round and in the middle the area, which is filled with water, measures 30 feet 8 inches by 28 feet.211

The prayerhall has an imposing facade towards the court, divided into seven arches, of which the middle one is slightly larger in dimensions than those on each side. The span of the middle arch is 17 feet in contrast to the 16 feet 2 inches of the others, and its height up to the apex is 18 feet 9 inches as opposed to the 18 feet 2 inches of the latter. The arch heads rest on low but massive columns and support the ceiling, which is divided into twenty-one vaults. The prayer hall contains several rows of arches across both its length and its breadth, and comprises three apartments from east to west and seven from north to south. The hall has no decorative features, but the arrangement of the arches and their fine proportions have given the building a certain elegance in spite of its plain style. The hall is 144 feet in length and a depth of 65 feet.212

The mihrab as usual projects from the hall and has a pentagonal plan at the base. The apartment of the prayer hall, adjoining the mihrab, whence the
Imam conducts the service and recites the holy texts, has a domed ceiling of considerable height. The dome shaped ceiling has another dome over it, which springs from an octagonal base built on the roof of the building. Each side of the base measures 12 feet in length; thus the total girth of the base is 84 feet, and its walls rise to a height of 10 feet 6 inches above the roof. The dome itself has a circumference of 76 feet at its springing-point on the top of the base, and rises 19 feet above that. The height of the dome including its finial is 32 feet 9 inches from the level of the roof and 66 feet from the floor of the prayer hall.  

There is a parapet of trefoil pattern on front wall of the prayer hall at its top, which is interspersed with tiny minarets. The chain and pendant device, which is a prominent decorative design of Barid Shahi architecture, may also be noticed in the spandrels of the arches of the front wall. From the shape of its main dome and the style of its arches, it can probably be assigned to the Bahmani period. Its general appearance, however, shows it to be of a much later date than the Bahmani mosque in the fort.

Bidar also had other minor educational institutions such as the four talims and Khanqas within the town, which imparted physical training and primary education they were as follows;

**The Four Talims**

Bidar had four schools for physical training and military instructions in the four quarters of the city. They still exist in name and are called;

1. Manhiyar (bangle-seller's) Talim, situated in the northern part of the city,
2. Abbas Pansali (water-miller's) ki Talim, situated in the southern part of the city,
3. Siddiq Shah ki Ta’lim, situated in the western part of the city and
4. Nur Khan ki Talim, situated in the eastern part of the city The schools give
   instruction in wrestling, club-exercises, and fencing, such as are displayed
during the mock-fights of the Muharram festival in India.

**Manhiyar Talim or the Bangle-setter’s School**

The building in which the Bangle-seller’s school is located northern part
of the city on the left side of the way from Madras to Takht-i-Kirmani. The
gateway and the enclosure wall of the school have suffered considerably. The
only architectural feature of the gateway to attract the attention of the visitor is
the incongruity of its pillars, which do not seem to be in their original place and
may have been brought from some other building after the decay of the latter.
On entering through the gateway, the principal building within the enclosure is
an Ashur Khana, which comprises a single hall with three arched openings in
the front and a small room for storing relics at the back. The hall measures 19
feet 3 inches by 10 feet 6 inches. The pillars of the hall also seem to have
been brought from some other old building. In the court of the ‘Ashur Khana’
there is another hall, which has no roof, being quite modern. According to local
tradition the four schools (Talim Khanas) were also called Tahdid khanas
(Punishment Houses), since culprits, by the orders of the king, or the
governor, received punishment under the surveillance of the staff of these
institutions.

**Pansal Talim or Water-miller’s school.**

By the main road towards the Fath Darwaza, the premises of another
old school for physical training may be visited. It is called the Pansal Talim or
water-miller’s school. The various apartments and buildings connected with this institution possess no architectural importance. They, however, comprise an Ashur Khana, a mosque, and a tomb. The Ashur Khana consists of a single hall with a screen of wooden arches in its front. The mosque also is a small structure, comprising a prayer-hall and a court in front of it. The prayer hall has three arches opening on the court. A veranda has recently been built in front of the hall to protect votaries from the heat and glare of the sun. The tomb consists of a single chamber with an arched opening towards the east. The proportions of the latter are somewhat squat and clumsy. The chamber contains the grave of Ustad Yar Muhammad, who was at one time in charge of the school. On the facade of the building an inscription has been set up recently.

Siddiq Shah ki Talim.

By the main road from Naya Kaman (New Arch) to Mangalpeth Daraza are the Physical School (Siddiq Shah Talim) and the Tomb of Siddiq Shah, neither of which has any pretension to architectural merit. On the contrary the latter has quite a modern appearance, comprising a pavilion with an arcade on all four sides.

The middle arches of the pavilion are cusped, a feature which is noticeable in the buildings of Bidar after its occupation by the Mughals in C.E. 1656. The apartment containing the grave of Siddiq Shah has four turrets of fancy design on its roof. The tomb is built of laterite masonry. To the north east of the tomb was an Ashur Khana and in front of it an alavd. The alava is built almost in the middle of the road. It consists of a pit where fire and incense are
kept burning during the first ten days of the month of Muharram. The religious banners and other relics sacred to the Shias are exhibited. As regards the derivation of the word *alava* it may be connected with the Hindi word *alaaoo*, meaning a fire heap. Close by is the Ta'llm of Siddiq Shah which has almost the same plan as the other physical training schools, i.e. it comprises an open court and an Ashur Khana. The latter is built along the northern wall of the school and consists of a hall with a room at its back. The front of the hall has three arched openings.  

**Nur Khan ki Talim.**

It is situated close to the Mangalpet Darwaza and has more or less the same plan as the other three schools, that is, it comprises an open court with an Ashur Khana and a mosque built therein. Both the buildings are small, the mosque being made up of a prayer-hall with a court in front of it. The 'Ashur Khana consists of two apartments which measure jointly 26 feet 5 inches in length and 22 feet in width. There are three arched openings in each apartment, the openings being of small dimensions.

**The Khanqas and Monastries.**

Bidar has several monasteries wherein the descendants of the saints who exercised considerable influence on the kings of Bidar and were supported to impart religious teaching according to the doctrine of the special order of dervishes to which they belong.

**Khanqah of Hadrat Nur Samnani**

Hadrat Nur Samnani was one of those holy men whom the religious inclinations of the Bahmani kings attracted to Bidar where they settled down
and ultimately passed away, but their memory is still sacred to the inhabitants of the place. His tomb is described in the proceeding chapter entitled Historic Muslim Monuments in Bidar District. The Khanqah is between the Talim of Siddiq Shah and the Jami Majid on the way to Chaubara.

It has within its enclosure a hall for the accommodation of the disciples and a mosque wherein they prayed. The latter comprises a room, measuring 22 feet 3 inches from north to south and 19 feet from east to west. The room has three arches in its eastern side, the middle one of which is much larger in dimensions than those on each side, which look very small in comparison with it. The dimensions of the middle arch are 10 feet 8 inches and height up to the apex 10 feet 2 inches. The hall of the Khanqah has a cell at its back, the hall measures 33 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 3 inches, and has three arched openings towards the east. The ceiling is divided into three compartments each having a vault. The spandrels of the arches on the external side are adorned with plasterwork. The plinth of the hall is 3 feet 2 inches above the small court in front of it.  

Khanqah of Hadrat Shah Abul-Faid.

The monastery of Hadrat Abu'l-Faid is is situated on the right side of the road when proceeding from the Chaubara to the Mangalpet Darwaza. The saint, who was born in 811 H. (C.E. 1408) and passed away in 879 H. (C.E. 1474), was a contemporary of Ahmad Shah al-Wali, Ala-ud-din Ahmad, Humayun, and Nizam Shah Bahmani. These kings had great respect for the saint and there are sanads in the possession of the present sajjdda which show that he was addressed by them in terms of the highest reverence. The
monastery has a large enclosure, the eastern, western, and southern walls of which are old. The approach is through an arched gateway. The posts and the arch head of the gateway are of polished black stone and carved in the Bahmani style. The main building within the enclosure comprises a hall with some rooms attached to it. In the monastery are some sanads and also a few relics, the most important among the latter being the tunic of Hadrat Farid-ud-Din Shakar Ganj and the cap of Hadrat Banda Nawaz Gesu-daraz which the sajjada puts on when he is installed on the carpet of his predecessor. 222

The Khanqah of Shah Wali-Ullah Al-Husaini.

From the Chaubara-Mangalpet road a street branches towards the north, almost opposite the Khanqah of Shah Abul-Faid and after proceeding a few steps in that street is the Khanqah of Shah Wali-Ullah. The main building in the monastery comprises a spacious hall, which is divided into two aisles in its depth. The hall has three arched openings towards the court. The arches of the openings are rather wide in relation to their height; the span of the arches is 10 feet 11 inches and their height up to the apex 12 feet 6 inches. The arch heads are supported by masonry pillars, which although quite massive, rise only 4 feet 6 inches above the floor. The main hall has rooms built in its sides towards the east and west and also a small room in its back which is technically styled the Shah-nishin, or the room for the retirement of the saint. Towards the east of this Khanqah is a small dome which is now enclosed in the zenana part of the residence of the sajjada. The dome has also an independent approach through an arch of massive proportions. 223
The Great Monastery of Mahbub Subhani

Mahbub Subhani, meaning the chosen one of the Holy God, is the epithet applied to Hadrat Shaikh Abdul Qadir Gilani by the devotees of his order. The Great Monastery or the Bari Khanqah, as it is called, may be approached either from the road which branches from the Madrasa-Fort main road towards the east, or from the lane close to the monasteries of Shah Ali Husain and Shah Wali-Ullah. The monastery has several buildings inside its enclosure, among which a mosque is interesting because its parapet consists of overlapping arches, a pleasing feature of the Bahmani style. The prayer hall has three arched openings towards the east, which are of uniform dimensions of 7 feet 4 inches and the height up to the apex 10 feet 7 inches. The prayer hall measures 28 feet 11 inches in length and 18 feet 9 inches in depth, and has a vaulted ceiling divided into three compartments.

The Small Monastery of Mahbub Subhani.

This monastery, styled the Chhoti Khanqah, is situated in the same locality in which the Bari Khanqah is found, the distance between the two being some 100 yards. The plan of the monastery comprises a gateway, a mosque, and an assembly hall with a court in front of it. The gateway has a covered passage in the middle and a vaulted room on either side towards the east and west. These rooms are of uniform dimensions, measuring 26 feet 3 inches in length and 14 feet in width. The court has a cistern of neat design with margins of polished black stone. The assembly hall measures 48 feet 8 inches in length externally, which measurement covers also the width of the
rooms built on either side of the hall towards the east and west. There is also a chamber, built at the back of the hall, to house the relics of the monastery.  

**The Khanqah of Makhdum Qadiri.**

This monastery is situated towards the east at a short distance from the Chhoti Khanqah of Mahbub Subhani, but it may also be approached from the Madrasa to Dulhan Darwaza road. The monastery has several buildings within its enclosure, among which the main block comprises a double hall with five arched openings towards the court. The hall has also a small room at its back for keeping the relics. The turrets on the roof of the hall have a fanciful appearance, but they are modern. Hadrat Makhdum Qadiri, with whose name the monastery is associated, was an important saint of Bidar. The full name of the saint was Makhdum Shaikh Muhi-ud-Din Qadiri and he was the eldest son of Multani Padshah and lived in the tenth century Hijra (16th century C.E).  

**The Khanqah of Hadrat Minnat-Ullah Bi Sahiba.**

Close by the last Khanqah towards the northwest is another monastery, styled the Khankah of Minnat-Ullah Bi. She, according to local tradition, was the sister of Hadrat Abul-Faid, and the association of her name with the Khanqah shows that she took an active interest in the propagation of the religious doctrine of the Chishtiya order of sufis. Some parts of the enclosure of the monastery are old, and inside there is a room the arched facade of which is carved in the Bahmani style. In the back wall of the room is fixed a black stone tablet with an inscription carved on it. The inscription records that the original monastery was built by Yad-Ullah Shah, but it was later renovated by Min-Allah Shah, the son of Wali-Ullah Shah, in 1108 H. (C.E. 1696), which
date falls in Aurangzeb's reign. Yad-Ullah Shah, the founder of the monastery, was the spiritual guide of Sultan 'Ala-ud-Dln Ahmad Baihmani (C.E. 1436-58), and the saint went over to Bidar from Gulbarga at the special request of this king. The monastery must therefore, have been first established sometime in the middle of the fifteenth century.227

The Tomb of Hadrat Multani Padshah.228

The tomb is situated in the north-west corner of the town and may be approached either by the road which turns towards the north at a short distance from the Khass Mahall group of monuments, or by the road which starts from the Club Bungalow and runs parallel to the southern glacis of the fort. The full name of Hadrat Multani Padshah is Abul-Fath Shams-ud-Dln Muhammad al-Qadiri and he was born in C.E. 1458, and died on 8th June, C.E. 1529. He is one of the most popular saints of Bidar, and his tomb is still visited by a large number of votaries daily. The title al-Qadiri is attached to his name because he belonged to the order of saints established by Shaikh 'Abdu'l- Qadir Gilani. The name Multani he evidently got from his father, Hadrat Shaikh Ibrahim, who was a native of Multan and migrated to Bidar sometime during the reign of Ala-ud-Dln Ahmad Bahmani (C.E. 1436-58), if not earlier. The son Muhammad was probably born at Bidar.

The tomb has a large enclosure, and is approached from the main street by a lofty arch whence a branch road leads to the gateway of the tomb. The gateway has an arch at each end towards the north and south and also a pair of rooms, built on either side of the passage. The latter are occupied by watchmen and drummers in the service of the shrine and also by dervishes.
visiting the tomb. Beyond the gateway, a paved walk first passes through a large cemetery containing the graves of the followers of the saint. Several of these graves bear inscriptions, which may interest those who are fond of studying chronograms. The tomb of the saint is built on a platform which has a plinth, 3 feet 2 inches high. The tomb has been repaired on an extensive scale several times, as the result of which much of its original character has been lost. The latest repairs were carried out in 1343 H. (C.E. 1923), and the visitor will notice tile and marble decorations in the front of the building which have marred the simple dignity of the original tomb.

The sepulchral chamber measures 18 feet square inside and 25 feet 4 inches externally. There is a corridor 6 feet 6 inches deep all round the sepulchral chamber. In the plinth of the platform towards the west an incised tablet is fixed which contains the chronogram of Shah Ishaq's death. Shah Ishaq was one of the five sons of Hadrat Multftnl Padghah, and according to the chronogram he died in 887 H. (C.E, 1482). There is also a mosque close by to the north of the shrine which comprises a double hall, measuring 26 feet 10 inches by 26 feet 2 inches over both parts. The arches of the hall show a marked stilt at their apex. An enclosure attached to the mosque towards the south contains the tomb of Hadrat Ibrahim Multani, the father of the saint.

ii. Basavakalyana fort

Basavakalyan, was until recently known as Basavakalyan Kalyani and Kalyan and has been also called Qasba Kalyanabad in some Bahamani records. Situated about 80 kms south-west of Bidar town, it is the headquarters of the taluk of the same name. This place came to prominence
towards the close of the tenth century C.E., when the capital of the later Western Chalukyas was shifted here from Malkhed. Basavakalyana fort, earlier known as Kalyana fort, is located in Bidar district in the Indian state of Karnataka. Its historic importance is dated to the 10th century when the capital of Chalukyas was shifted from Manyakheta to Kalyana. The fort, integral to the Basavakalyana town, is also famous as Karmabhoomi of Basavanna and hundreds of other Sharanas (Virashaiva saints).  

The later Chalukyas or Chalukyas of Kalyana under Tailapa II (973-997 C.E) defeated the Rashtrakutas. They established their capital at Kalyana, now as Basavakalyana in Bidar district. The fort was constructed in 973 C.E by Nalaraja during the reign of Taila II itself. Inscriptions at the fort ascribe to this fact.

Basavakalyana, with its fort as its headquarters, was the royal capital of the Western Chalukya (Chalukya of Kalyan) dynasty from 1050 to 1195 CE. Somesvara I (1041–1068 CE) made Kalyana as his capital, recognised as Kalyani Chalukyas to differentiate with Badami Chalukyas. Later it was ruled by Somesvara II, Vikramaditya VI, Somesvara III, Jagadeka Malla III and Tailapa III. Subsequent rulers such as Kachchh dynasty, Yadavas, Gayasuddin Khilji, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Bahmani Sultans of Bidar, Bijapur Sultans, Sultan of Ahmadnagar, the Vijayanagar Empire, the Mughals, and the Nizams controlled the fort and refurbished it.

The Fortifications and monuments within the fort enclosure

The fort is strategically built as a defense structure in a camouflaged setting, which is not discernible until the enemy is at close quarters of the fort.
This gives advantage for the defense forces holed up in the fort to repulse enemy attacks. This strategy of locating the fort in naturally camouflaged locations was popular in the forts built in the Deccan.\

In the Kalyan or Basvakalyan fort, as an economy measure, the defenses of the fort were built by inter-connecting large boulders scattered on the hills with strong fort walls. The fort was made defensively complex with guard rooms and barbicans, which was a novelty at that time. The fort consisted of three concentric irregular fort walls.

The fort has seven gates, out of which five are in good shape. At the entrance to the fort, there is solid arch with balconies on the flanks accessed by series of steps on either side. The fort walls encircling the central courtyard have guardrooms, which are also combined with many bastions and mounted by cannons (some of the cannons are also ornamented). Cannons are also lined along the approach path to the citadel. The fort walls are engraved with images of Yalis. At the top of gateways, openings are seen, which were likely used to douse the enemy with boiling oil. Another defence measure is the deep moat that surrounds the fort. The citadel is centrally located within the fort, on a high ground. The fort is surrounded by a deep moat in three lines of 30ft depth.

The fort has seven gates, out of which five are in good shape. At the entrance to the fort, there is large gate built in black stone with solid arch and balconies on the flanks accessed by series of steps on either side. On either side of the gate there are smaller arches of 6 feet in and 4 feet in width the
upper portion of these arches appear like domes. Above them are balconies of smaller dimensions and arched balconies 10 feet above them. On the top of the arched doorway of the gate there are three arched balconies of uniform size. The has two large minarets in the middle exactly on the top of the arched doorway and two of slim and smaller size on at the corner of the gateway. There are also guard rooms attached to the gate on either side with arches.236

On entering from the outer gate there is a wooden platform and a fountain in its front. This platform it is said was the court of justice during the Muslim period. After passing through the second gate is approached which also of Muslim period with arched door and arched balconies identical to that of the outer gate. Entering from this second gate there is another gate of Muslim period. After passing from this gate on the walled passage upon the moat, which is in double line the ancient gate of Hindu period is approached which gives access to the fort inside.237

The fort walls encircling the central courtyard have guardrooms, which are also combined with many bastions and mounted by cannons (some of the cannons are also ornamented). Cannons are also lined along the approach path to the citadel. The fort walls are engraved with images of Yalis, Hindu gods and goddesses. At the top of gateways, openings are seen, which were likely used to douse the enemy with boiling oil. Another defense measure is the deep moat that surrounds the fort. The citadel is centrally located within the fort, on a high ground.238
There is an empty pond with pillar of a fountain at the centre of 15fts bye 15 fts and 10 fts depth. There is a platform made of 18 wooden carved pillars of Islamic style, used during Muharram prayers. To the left is another gate with 3 balconies in the identical style to the main gate discussed above but smaller in size. Passing through this gate the ancient gate of the fort can be approached. Passing through steps there is a small entrance called the Akhand Darwaza. 

The Akhand Darwaza

The main door to the citadel is known as the ‘Akhand Darwaza’ built with four red stone slabs. From the door way, up a flight of steps is the passage to the Rajmahal palace.

Rajmahal palace

In the centre of the fort is Rajmahal palace which is now mostly in ruins has three arched doors on four side mostly Hindu but during renovated into Muslim architecture during their period by Nizamuddin-Din Khan in 1592-93 C.E. However, the ceiling in the palace hall displays colourful designs. The central wall in the hall has patterns of vases and urns.

The Temple.

Adjoining the palace at its right side there is a temple that does not have any deity. However, at its entrance the vertical stone columns depict well-carved sculpture. On the upper side of the door, there is an idol of Ganesha carved on it. There is a square pond of 10ft by 10 ft in front of the temple.
The Rani Mahal.

Behind the temple to the west is the Rani Mahal (queen's palace), which has a platform of 4 ft by 5 ft. It has which has six pillars that are plastered with mortar and lime but the plasters are falling. From there is an exclusive approach to the temple.244

The Mosque and other buildings.

To the right side of the Raj Mahal there is a Mosque which has minarets at the four corners. In the centre to the roof, there is a dome of 10 ft in length and 10 ft in circumference. To the right side of this Mosque, there are Birds room and revenue office of the Muslim period.245

Darbar Hall and other buildings.

To the left of the Raj mahal is a big Darbar Hall of approximately 30 by 40fts and 40 ft height. Opposite there is a gallery of same dimensions with gunpowder magazine. In front of this hall, there is an empty pond of 40 fts length, 5 ft breadth and 4 ft depth. There is a large cannon on the Darbar hall complex which is 22.7 ft in length and 2fts in diameter and 12 inch in inner circumference, this cannon is popularly called Navgaz placed on a circular battlement on the southern wall. At lower portion below the navgaz cannon there are 5 cannons of same type but smaller in size.246

Also seen within the fort precincts are; Haidar mahal and Rangeen Mahal, two deep wells on the northeast and western sides with inclined ramps for drawing water by the oxen or horses, secret narrow passages to underground chambers for emergency escape during enemy attacks, the Talim Khana (wrestling training hall) a chamber used as a gymnasium and a cannon
popularly called the ‘Khadak Bijli Thopu’ (literal meaning ‘sharp lightning cannon’) on the second bastion. There is a wheel called Charaka mota with the help of which buffaloes were used to draw water from a well. On the walls of the fort, some Hindu and Jaina icons can be seen.247

iii. Minor Forts in the District
Apart from the major forts discussed above there are also some minor forts in the district which are discussed as follows,

i. Minor Forts in Basavakalyan Taluk
Basavakalyan taluka has relics or remains two minor forts one at Mantala and the other at Morkhandi.

Fort at Manthala
Matala or mantala is about 15 kms south-west of Basavakalyan town on the National Highway 9. The village has remains of an old fort located on the left side of a road entering into the old village. There is a huge arched gateway to the north on the road mentioned above, which is about 20 ft high and 12 ft in breadth. The arch is about 15 ft high and 10 ft in breadth. The fortification wall is about 30 ft high and 1 ft thick. The gateway has two massive bastions on either sides and two rooms that might have served as check posts or guard posts for people entering into the fort. There is another room in the inner side of the gate. No fortification wall exists around this old village as either the walls are destroyed or houses are built to the walls that seem to be that of the fort. Even there is no moat around the fort.248

Entering the gate some 200-300 mts away there is another gate to the fort with arched door on the eastern direction. The height of the gate is about 15 ft
high and 10 ft in width and the height and thickness of the wall are about 20 ft and 1 ft respectively. When entered from this gate there is a modern Hanuman temple around which relics of old temple can be seen. To the right side of this eastern gate inside there is a residential quarter about 40 by 40 feet with arched main door of about 10 feet in length and 5 ft in width. In the middle of this quarter is an open verandah surrounded by arched passages of about 10 by 4 ft, the verandah is about 20 by 20 ft and about 3 ft deeper than the basement of the arched passages. This quarter seems to be of Muslim period and might have held as provincial headquarter by Danda nayakas, Samantas or Mahasamantas during Hindu rulers or as headquarters of Parigah during later Muslim rulers.249

**Remnants of forts in Morkhandi**

Morkhandi which lies at a distance of about 16 kms west of Basavakalyan town, has remnants of an old fort and temples. While entering the village there is an old gateway built in black stone about 30 ft high and 15 ft in length with two arched doors facing each other. The arches are about 15 ft high and 10 ft in width, there are two more arches of same size inside to the right and left side of the doors. This remnant seems to be that of 17-18th century C.E.250

Passing through the village by the tar road towards the Siddheshvara temple on the left side of the road there are remnants of an old fortification of pre-Muslim period, which consists of gate built in black stone about 30 ft high and 15 ft in length with an arched door of about 15 ft high and 10 ft in width. There are other two small doors 6 ft in length and 2 ft in width on either side of the main door, the upper portion of which looks like dome. The smaller door or
passage on the left side is closed with stones now. Entering the gate there are platforms of about 5 ft with small room like passages about 4 ft by 2 ft in size on either side, that might have served as rooms. To the right side of the gate there was another arched passage of the same size as that of the main door of this gate, which is closed now by a wall. The appearance of the gate and the walls adjoining the gate certainly proves that there was a small and old fort even since the pre-Muslim period that might have might have held as provincial headquarter by Danda nayakas, Samantas or Mahasamantas during Hindu rulers or as headquarters of Parigah during later Muslim rulers.  

ii. Minor Forts in Bhalki Taluk

Bhalki taluka has two minor forts namely at Bhalki and Bhatambra which were held as province and Paiga under the Hindu and Muslim Rulers of the region.

Bhalki Fort

Bhalki an important town situated is about 40 kms northwest of Bidar town. It is the headquarters of a taluk of the same name. The place has been called Bhallunke, Bhaliki and Bhalikki in inscriptions of 981, 1099 and 1105 C.E, which mention about Rajarasa a subordinate of Tailahadeva, Permadi or Permardideva a Mahamandaleshvara as ruling from Bhalki during the reign of Tribhuvanamalla of Kalyana respectively.  

A chieftain named Ramachandra Jadhav built a fort here. It was the headquarters of a Parigah taluk held by a family of nobleman known as Khursheed Jah under the Nizam of Hyderabad.
The fort built in black stone is irregular rectangle in shape the walls of the fort on all sides about 35-40 feet in height and about 200-250 fts accept on north and western side of the fort where the main gate is located some 50 fts away adjoining the northern and western walls. The gate on the western portion of the fort is about 35 ft with an arched door of 20 ft by 30 ft and has a big bastion of about 50 ft in height adjoining its left side. The shape of the bastion is hexagonal and goes on diminishes on upper level until the apex making it to look like a conical shape, this is the only bastion to this fort. There is another small gate on the eastern wall in the center measuring about 20 ft by 14 ft and an arched door of 12 ft by 5 ft. Inside the fort entered from the main gate on west, there is a Gadi (frontier) Ganesh Mandir (temple). There is small room adjoining which is a basement of a fallen edifice.\textsuperscript{254}

To the right of the above room is a mahal of about 25 ft height by 35 ft in length and breadth on all four sides. The mahal has three arched doors of about 6ft by 4ft. above the centre arch is an arch of 4ft by 2 ft and two rectangular balconies on all sides. In the middle is an observatory or another storey about 30ft by 20 ft which has 7 arches on the top portion and is built in red burnt bricks. Apart from the above buildings there are ruins of spacious rooms towards the small gate. A private school is being run in the building adjoining the Mahal.\textsuperscript{255}

**Bhatambra Fort**

Bhatambra is about 8 kms north-west of Bhalki town. It has an old, large and strong fort. The place has a temple of Veerabhadra, which holds an
annual *jatra* for two days during April-May and a Gurubasaveshvara *Matha*. The Hyderabad-Karnataka Sahitya Sammelana was held here in 1955.\(^{256}\)

The fort is built in black stone and is in square shape with seven bastions, four bastions at each corner of the fort and one in the centre at east west and southern wall. The lengths of the fort wall being about 120 ft on all sides and the thickness of the wall is about 4-5 ft. The entrance to the fort being to the east is a very small arched passage. There is a square shaped building to the northern wall with two parallel domed rooms with arched openings, the dome being 4 ft. Inside there is a pavilion with two storey built in black rock stone. Besides, there are dilapidated rooms adjacent to the pavilion. There is open space in the fort.\(^{257}\)

From the architectural appearance the massiveness of the fort, it can be said that, the fort might have been a frontier outpost or garrison held by some provincial governor and seems to be a 12\(^{th}\) century edifice.

**i. Minor forts in Humnabad Taluka**

There are three minor forts in Humnabad Taluka namely at old fort at of Chalukyan times at Humnabad and 16\(^{th}\) to 17\(^{th}\) century C.E forts at Hankuni and Hallikhed (B)

**Minor Fort at Humnabad.**

Humnabad, previously called Jayasingapura, situated at a distance of 52 kms southwest of Bidar town, is the taluka headquarters town of the same name and a trade centre. It is said to have been built by Chalukya (of Kalyana) king Jayasimha in 1040 C.E. It was formerly in the Paiga Taluk of Chincholi and has a ruined fort.\(^{258}\)
The fort, which encircles the Veerabhadreshvara temple square in shape with wall of 80 ft long and 30 ft with a round bastion of 40 ft above ground level on all four corners, the thickness of the wall being 4 ft. The main gate of the fort is on the east from where the Veerabhadreshvara temple is entered. Unfortunately, the fortification walls are now being under demolition for construction of shopping complex and projected guest house or lodging for devotees.259

**Minor Fort at Hankuni**

Some 10 kilometers away from Humnabad is the village Hankuni, which can be reached by taking right turn from National Highway 9 while coming from Basavakalyan near the junction of the roads from Veerabhadreshwara chariot ground and the National Highway. Though does not find mention in any historical records, this village has a minor but massive fort on the left side of the road built in black stone.

The fort is in rectangular shape on north and south is about 300 ft in length and on east and west is about 200 ft. The height of the fortification on all sides is about 25 ft and railings of 4 ft above it. The thickness of the fort wall is about 3 feet and has battlement of about 2 ft at the railings. There are six bastions to the fort, one each at the four corners and one in the middle on north and southern walls. All the bastions accept those on the main entrance are fallen from inside. There is only one entrance to the fort, which is very small measuring about 15 ft high and 5 ft wide. There is a dilapidated residential quarter in the middle of the fort, which is attached to another small bastion. The inner buildings are built in red sandstone, which is abundant in Humnabad.
taluka. There is a minor moat of about 15ft length by 20ft deep surrounding the fort.\textsuperscript{260}

**Minor Fort at Hallikhed (B)**

Hallikhed (B), a large important village, situated about 22 kms northeast of Humnabad town, was formerly the headquarters of \textit{Paigah} of Ikbat-ud-Dowla.\textsuperscript{261}

The village does not find mention in any historical records so far. But, it has a small fort in rectangular shape on East and west is about 300 ft in length and on north and south is about 200 ft. The height of the fortification on all sides is about 40 ft and railings of 4 ft above it. The thickness of the fort wall is about 3 feet and has battlement of about 2 ft at the railings. There are four bastions to the fort, one each at the four corners of the walls. All the bastions except the one on the northeastern corner are fallen from outside. There are two entrances to the fort, one on the east which is large seems to be of Muslim period when it was held as headquarters of \textit{Paigah} by Ikbat-ud-Dowla. The entrance is in double storey has an arched doorway of about 10 by 15 ft. and there are four arches of smaller dimensions on one another on either side of the arched door. The second storey has three arches of equal dimensions. This upper storey has large rooms with arched open doors. There are unfinished modern residential rooms in the middle of the fort that are built on basements of ruined walls of old buildings. The inner buildings are built in red sandstone, which is abundant in Humnabad taluka. There is a small entrance seems to be modern being constructed by an advocate of Patil family of the village.\textsuperscript{262}
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