

The Shrine of Hazrat Eshan

Hazrat Syed Khawaja Khawand Mahmood Eshan being here in the early period of Akbar the Mughal Emperor. He himself constructed a beautiful garden and mosque. It is octagonal double dome is decorated with "fresco". The Tomb and mosque was badly damaged by the Sikhs and Muslim brick sellers. The Tomb was repaired by the Britishers 1880, 1884 and 1900 A.D.

The high dome of the shrine of Hazrat Eshan is located to the west of Begampura and north of the University of Engineering the Technology. Khawaja Mehmud was a native of Bukhara. At the age of 20, he ventured out of his town after receiving his education in the royal college and becoming a renowned scholar at such a young age. On the way, he made thousands of disciples in Herat, Kabul, and Kandahar. He came to Kashmir in Akbar's time, from where Jahangir took him to Agra. In Shah Jahan's time, he made Lahore his residence. He laid out his mausoleum in his own life time and upon his death in 1642, he was buried there. Wazir Khan, governor of Lahore under Shah Jahan, held him in high esteem and would spend a lot for the upkeep of the saint's shrine. During the viceroyalty of Nawab Zakariya Khan, who lived at Beganpura, the mausoleum was at the height of its popularity. The octagonal building of the tomb is surmounted by a high dome. The entrance is from the west and stairs provide access to the top of the building. Inside the tomb, in the center, there is a large platform upon which is the grave of Khawaja Mehmud. Another grave in the northeast is that of Baha-ud-Din, son of Khawaja Mehmud to the west of the mausoleum, there is a beautiful mosque, which is topped by three domes. The central dome is larger. The mosque is of the same vintage as the tomb; however, it has been much renovated of late. During the reign of Ranjit Singh, General Gulab Singh

established his cantonment near the mausoleum and knocked down the surrounding walls of the tomb's enclosure. The mausoleum was used to store magazine and its marble was removed. The bricks from the courtyard of the mosque and even the graves were removed themselves. At the advent of British rule, the mausoleum was cleared and the building of the tomb and the adjoining mosque was repaired. Currently, the tomb is white washed from the outside and so is the mosque. However, on the inside of the tomb, one can still see the beautiful fresco paintings of floral and geometric designs