

The Mosque of Khwajah Ayaz

This is situated in Baghbanpura, close to the shrine of Hazrat Madho Lal Husain. Although it is a prominent building but it is now overshadowed by its surrounding houses.

The founder, Khwajah Ayaz, an Amir under Nawab Ali Mardan Khan, was the Superintendent Public Works when the Shalimar Garden was commissioned by Emperor Shahjahan. He also built a garden east of Shalimar within a walled enclosure. Latif reported in 1892 that, it was then in the possession of the Sindhianwala Sardars.

The courtyard of the mosque is square and has three entrances, one each from the east, north, and south. On top of the middle arch are Arabic passages inscribed on marble, together with the name of the founder:

The mosque chamber has two hujras (chambers), located towards its anterior. Atop the front facade are four small minarets. The mosque's chamber has three arched openings in this facade, the central one larger and wider than the other two. The interior of the mosque was decorated with exquisite floral paintings in different colours, and a shamsa in the centre of the middle dome's ceiling. The building was also embellished with stucco tracery of superlative. The floor is made up of solid masonry. Presently, the overall condition of all decorative work on the mosque is disappointing.

Bibliography:

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