

M. Saleh Kamboh Masjid and tomb

Muhammad Saleh is well known as the court chronicler, who was employed to record during Shah Jahan's reign. His book "Aml-e-Salih" or "Shahjahanama" written in Persian is one of the most important original sources of history of Shahjahan's days. It is a proof of the author's great literary attainments and skill as writer of Persian poetry and prose. The mosque dates back to 1070A.H. /1659A.D. – 1079A.H./1668-69A.D. It is known as to Chinianwali Masjid because of the extraordinary mosaic tile-work (kashi Kari), which was popular during the reign of Shah Jahan. Although it was completed during Aurangzeb's reign, but the usual Shahjahani features—multifoil arches, stalactite squinches, delicately executed floral arabesque and interlacement in kashi and fresco—are in evidence. The mosque is small in size which is based on a single-aisle three bay arrangement, approachable through steps. It is surmounted by three domes. Because of space the limitation of, is a small removable pulpit which is removed and stored after the sermon. Its brick-lined courtyard offsets the scintillating mosaic tilework on the east facade of the mosque. The mosque is located in the Mochi Gate area of the walled city.

The British established a garden beside the road which has been the scene of many historical meetings and processions held by different political parties and other groups. Now the marks of the gate are hard to locate because of changes in the land use and additions of structures and houses. This mosque of Saleh Kamboh is no doubt one of the marvels inside this gate.

The mosque is a protected monument by the Archaeology Department of Punjab. The local body of Anjuman-e-Tajran Mochi Gate is presently looking after it on its own and no funds are provided by the government for its upkeep.

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