

MAKLI HILLS MONUMENT THATTA: HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE, CONSERVATION

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ABSTRACT

Thatta, located 100 kilometers east of Karachi on Karachi-Hyderabad road, represented the glory of Sindh, from 14th to 17th centuries AD. From its present day turning and twisting narrow lanes and decaying houses, it is difficult to imagine that Thatta was once a great seat of learning and culture, a flourishing center of commerce and industry, and a cosmopolitan city sustaining hundreds of thousands of people. Yet, the monuments of Outstanding Universal Value situated here, bear eloquent evidence to its past grandeur.

Today these monuments are in need of preservation and conservation and face many threats. This paper presents an over view of the current condition of the Thatta Necropolis and discusses the various physical and environmental threats it faces. The paper argues that there is a need for the heritage department to outline a preservation strategy for the monuments and to clearly spell out the future development aims in the areas surrounding the necropolis. The paper also outlines certain aspects of development that need to be implemented immediately and others which should be incorporated in a phase wise master plan for the region.

The paper is largely based on the current works and association of the author with the Culture Tourism and Antiquities Department using a case study methodology.

Keywords: Monument, Thatta, Necropolis, Preservation, Conservation