

6. FATEHPURI MASJID

Located at the western end of Chandni Chowk, the Fatehpuri mosque was built in 1650 by Fatehpuri Begum, one of the wives of Shah Jahan. It is built completely of red sandstone, and is the only single-domed congregational mosque in the city. On either side of the sanctuary is a minaret.

The courtyard of the mosque is stone paved and has a large tank in the center. Fatehpuri Begum is said to have had shops constructed along the southern and western walls of the mosque, so that the rents could go towards the upkeep of the mosque. Since then a number of additions have been made to the original structure and it is surrounded by single and double-storeyed buildings, which are used as shops and dwelling houses.

After the revolt of 1857, the British government, as one of the punitive measures against the people of the city, demolished or confiscated several mosques. The Fatehpuri masjid was also confiscated by the government and closed for worship. The attached shops were sold to Lala Chunnamal. The mosque and shops were finally restored to the Muslims only late in the nineteenth century. Timings: 5 am – 10 pm.

Fatehpuri Masjid



7. HAVELI HAIDER QULI

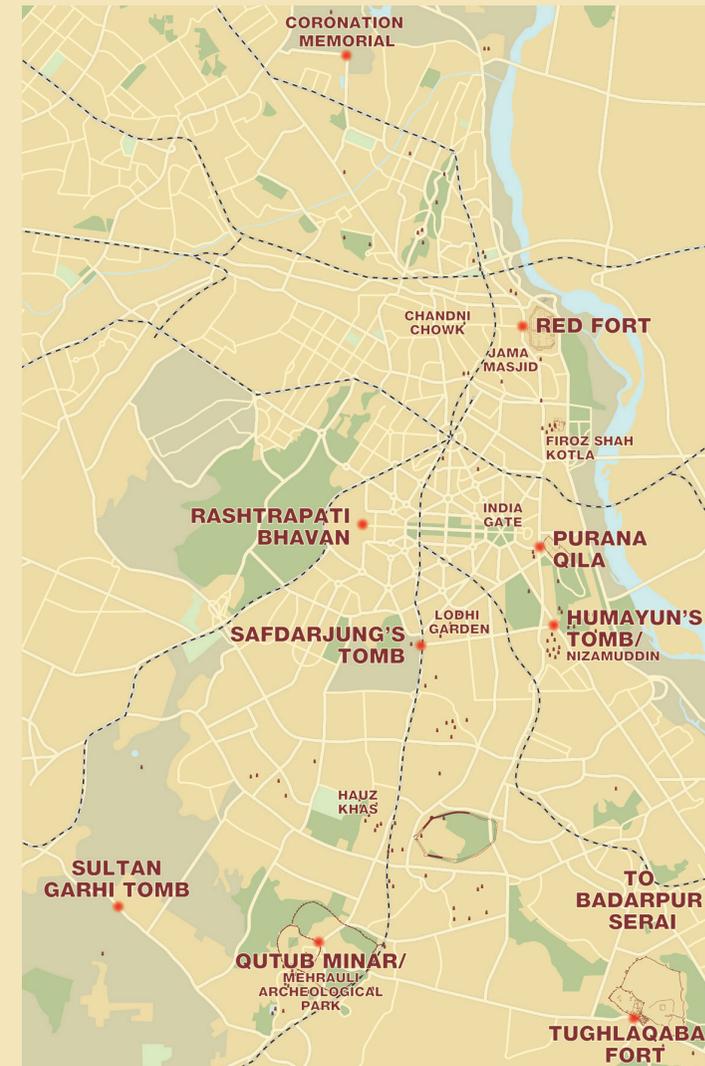
Haider Quli was a powerful official of the Mughal empire under one of the later Mughal emperors, Mohammad Shah (1719-48). He established a large estate near the Fatehpuri masjid. Though the main mansion has long disappeared and the surrounding gardens and courtyards have been built over, the area still retains the name of Haveli Haider Quli. Of note in the area are a few buildings dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, particularly nos. 499, 507, 508 and 509, Haveli Haider Quli.

8. BALLIMARAN AND MIRZA GHALIB'S HAVELI

Ballimaran is the locality associated closely with a noted family of *hakims* (practitioners of traditional yunani medicine), the Sharif Khani family, which had been associated with the Mughal emperors from the early days of the empire. They lived in and owned many of the properties in the Ballimaran area. One of these is a clinic and school of medicine known as the Hindustani Dawakhana.

Another is the *haveli* which was rented by Mirza Ghalib. The latter was one of the greatest poets of his time, and wrote both in Persian and Urdu. Located in Qasim Jan in Ballimaran and dating to the nineteenth century, the building is entered through a semi circular arched gateway. Part of it has been converted into a memorial but the rest is in a state of serious deterioration. Other buildings of interest on the street are Anand Aushadhalaya, 2168, Gali Qasim Jan, 2160, Ahata Kale Saheb and Hindustani Dawakhana.

Timings: 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, Sunday closed.



Nearest metro station: Chandni Chowk

Nearest bus stop: Red Fort

Bus route nos.: 012, 021, 034, 044, 082, 104, 118, 164, 171, 172, 185, 189, 216, 245, 246, 255, 258, 260, 266, 270, 271, 302, 312, 402, 403, 404, 405, 419, 425, 429, 436, 489, 602, 622, 729, 751, 753, 760, 901, 936,

Other places of interest: Red Fort, Jama Masjid



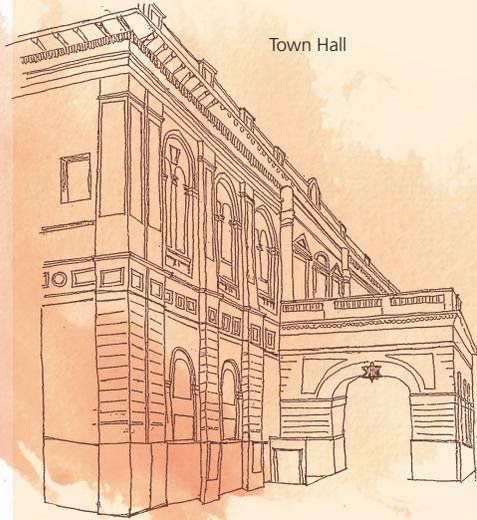
This publication has been made possible by the World Monuments Fund's Sustainable Tourism Initiative, sponsored by American Express.



INTACH
Created by
INTACH Delhi Chapter

a walk around TOWN HALL & MIRZA GHALIB'S HAVELI





Town Hall

1. TOWN HALL

Located on the main street, Chandni Chowk, the Town Hall was built in 1860-1864 on the site of Begum ki Sarai and Bagh, which had been built by Jahanara, the beloved daughter of Shahjahan and Mumtaz Mahal. After the revolt of 1857, the buildings in it were demolished to build the present structure as an educational and cultural center, called the Lawrence Institute. In 1866, the Municipality bought it.

This double-storeyed building with arched openings is built around a courtyard and is the office of the Municipal Commissioner of Delhi. There used to be a bronze statue of Queen Victoria here, which was replaced by the statue of the Arya Samaj nationalist leader, Swami Shraddhanand.

Timings: 9.00 am – 5.30 pm, Saturday – Sunday closed.
Wheelchair access.

2. LALA CHUNNAMAL'S HAVELI

This haveli (mansion) is situated at the point where the neighbourhood of Katra Nil meets Chandni Chowk. Chunnamal's forefathers had migrated to Delhi from Lahore around the end of the sixteenth century. In time they built up a flourishing business in shawls, brocade and textiles and eventually banking. In the nineteenth century the family haveli was inside Katra Nil.

Chunna Mal was a loyal ally of the British during the Revolt of 1857. Afterwards he bought up much property in Chandni Chowk, vast tracts of suburban land and most of the crown jewels. Now one of the richest men in the city, he also built the present haveli, which had a large street front, grander and better located than the older haveli had been. This haveli became a landmark for the rich and famous in the city. Even after his death in 1870, under Chunna Mal's successors, this grand home continued to play an important role in the life of Shahjahanabad.

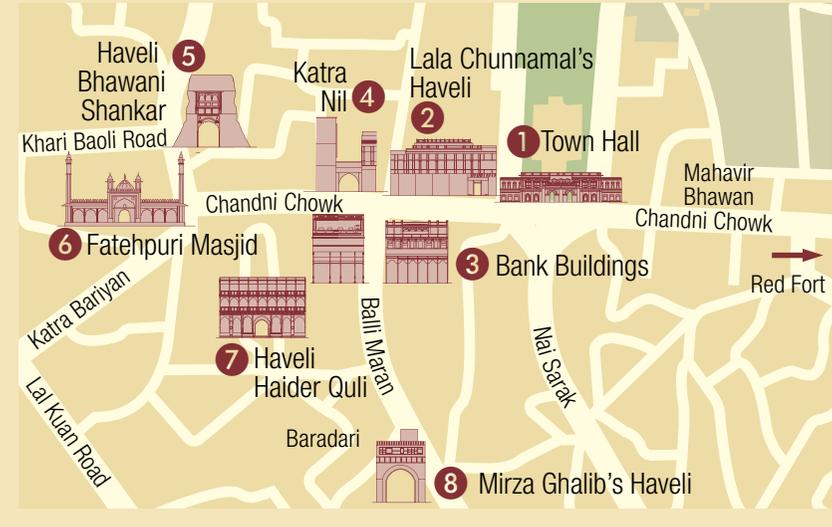


Lala Chunnamal's Haveli

The haveli has a large frontage and is built around two courtyards. Some of the rooms have been maintained in the original state and have high ceilings embellished with embroidered silk cloth covering the entire area. Large metallic mirrors on the two facing walls of the room, the fireplace, decorative tile work, chandeliers, ornamental moulding add to the splendour of the mansion. Private residence, no entry.

The imperial city of Shahjahanabad was established in the mid-seventeenth century by the emperor Shahjahan as his capital. Over the last more than three and a half centuries it has seen many changes - new buildings have of course replaced many of the older ones, but also new roads have been built, and utilization of space has changed. This walk-route goes past buildings and areas that are representative of every period in the history of Shahjahanabad. The Fatehpuri masjid is a royal mosque as old as the city itself. Haveli Haider Quli represents the power and splendour of the nobility during the later Mughal period. The haveli of Chunnamal recalls the wealth of the banking and trading classes that allied themselves with the East India Company's government in Delhi. The Town Hall marks the heyday of the British Raj. Ballimaran represents, in its dominance of hakims and the home of one of the greatest poets of the country, the strong traditions of learning and culture associated with the city of Delhi.

The present is by no means missing in this lively commercial and residential centre. The fascinating dry fruits, nuts, spice and condiments market of Khari Baoli beside Fatehpuri masjid is of particular interest. The area around Fatehpuri is also known for its street food.

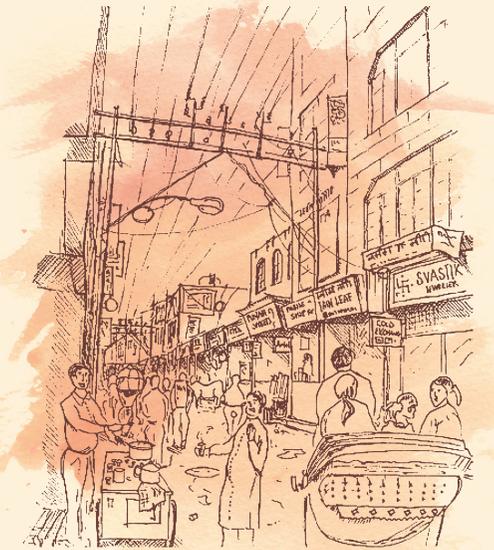


3. BANK BUILDINGS

Some of the best preserved late-colonial buildings in Chandni Chowk have been and still are occupied by banks. Just across the street from the Town Hall, is the Allahabad bank, a three-storeyed brick building dating from the 1930s. It has a very intricate façade, with lattice screens and circular pilasters. On the same side of the road, moving towards Fatehpuri mosque are three more banks. The Oriental Bank of Commerce also dates from the 1930s and has circular pilasters and mouldings. The Union Bank of India building is of the same period and has distinctive decorative parapets. Finally the ANZ Grindlays bank building is the oldest of these, from 1910. It has a very decorative façade and the first floor terrace is supported on slender iron columns.

4. KATRA NIL

The indigo market was also one of the localities of Shahjahanabad. However, we do not know whether indigo was manufactured or distributed from here. Katra Nil is entered through an arched gateway off Chandni Chowk, beside Lala Chunnamal's haveli. The narrow winding streets flanked by ornamental gateways leading to courtyard houses are what characterize this area. Even during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries this was a neighbourhood inhabited by prosperous traders and financiers. Apart from building beautiful houses, a significant portion of their wealth went towards endowing temples. This locality therefore has a number of beautifully carved facades of havelis, and many temples, particularly devoted to the worship of Shiva. Especially see the buildings at nos. 515, 571, 574, 575, 577, 596, 598, 602, 649, 689, 701, 759, 793, Katra Nil
Timings: 8.00 am – 10.00 pm.



Street view



Kachehri and Haveli of Bhawani Shankar

5. KACHEHRI AND HAVELI OF BHAWANI SHANKAR

Close to Fatehpuri Masjid and in the neighbourhood of Kucha Ghasiram are several buildings that would originally have formed a part of the estate of Bhawani Shankar. Nicknamed Namak Haram (unfaithful to his salt), Bhawani Shankar was the paymaster of the Sindhi forces but switched sides when the British and the Marathas were fighting for dominion over North India. When the British defeated the Marathas to gain control of Delhi and the surrounding territory in 1803, Bhawani Shanker was duly rewarded with property and titles. The estate he acquired in this locality was however lost by the family by the mid-nineteenth century and subsequently was much built over. Various buildings and gateways dating to the nineteenth century can be found at the site. Especially see no. 208, Fatehpuri, and nos. 154, 316, 349, and 351, Kucha Ghasiram.



Bank Buildings