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Preserving Poonch House: Architectural Documentation, Historical Insights, and Conservation Challenges

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Abstract
Among the very renowned historical buildings of Lahore, Poonch House located on Multan Road near Chauburji Gateway is among the very first buildings of the colonial era in Lahore City. This research exploration addresses the documentation and analysis of the architectural features of Poonch House in Lahore, Pakistan. It is a double-story building that is a Blend of Local, European Architecture having grand facades, Balance, Proportions & harmony, structural elements like columns (same as the Catholic Church), architrave, entablature, etc. are admirable. Assessment involves assessed architectural analysis and material decay systematic analysis through history and archaeology. The plan includes comprehensive documentation of the Poonch House's architecture, decoration, and use of material proper to restoring methods for restoration such as lime mortar. Despite its historical and architectural value, there have been no major restoration projects were initiated to preserve this landmark due to inadequate preservation policies. Being a historical approach, the research aimed at enhancing historical orientation and participation in long-term conservation initiatives.
Keywords: Conservation; Poonch House; Colonial Architecture; Catholic Church

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Introduction

Lahore is a cultural metropolis and 2nd largest populated city in Pakistan. Lahore is also referred to as the "City of Gardens and Heart of Pakistan." It is rich in history, culture, and architectural heritage, and its past spans centuries, blending Hindu Shahiya, Mughal, Sikh, and British Colonial influences with a flourishing contemporary culture. It provided a doorway to Central Asia and therefore remained a passageway for visitors, traders, and invaders for ages. It tenable its status as a Royal city during Mughal Rule especially when Akbar shifted his capital in Lahore. The history of Lahore dates back to more than two thousand years which makes it one of the historical cities in the sub-continent. Lahore rose to prominence under the Ghaznavid Empire (11th century), serving as a regional capital and became a significant city under the Delhi Sultanate, especially during the reigns of the Khilji, Tughlaq, and Lodhi dynasties. It flourished during the Mughal Empire, becoming a hub of culture, art, and architecture. During the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Lahore was the capital of Sikh rule and he added many buildings in Lahore Fort and buildings like Guru-dawaras, Palaces, Havelis, etc. [1].

Historical Significance of Poonch House

Lahore also remained the center of political and construction activities during the British period and they built many buildings in Lahore according to their requirements. Among the very renowned historical buildings of Lahore, Poonch House located on Multan Road near Chauburji Gateway is among the very first buildings of the colonial era in Lahore City. Poonch House, Lahore was Built in 1849 during the last days of Maharaja Duleep Singh's rule as the residence of Lord Henry Lawrence, covering an area of over 211 (two hundred and eleven) canals [2]. According to the revenue record the monument (having khasra No 4552) was owned by Raja Jagat Singh [3]. Later on, the bungalow was occupied by the Barrister viz Mr. Charles Boulnois of Chief Court. After that, it served as the residence of Chief Judge, Lahore High Court, Sir, Merdeith Plowden [4]. On 5th May 1930, the main character of Hind Independence Baghat Singh's trial was done in the same building and he was sentenced. It is a double-story building that is a Blend of Local, and European Architecture [5] having grand facades, Balance, Proportions & harmony, and structural elements like columns, architrave, entablature, etc. are admirable. Moreover, the use of traditional local materials & techniques like clay bricks, lime mortar, wooden elements, steel girders, etc. were originally used in construction. Further, traditional architectural features like stucco, fresco painting [6], wood carving [7], variegated color glasses, and brass elements are also evident reflecting high-class craftsmanship. The conservation of historical monuments starts with comprehensive documentation of their present condition, identifying areas that need urgent intervention. Comprehending the processes that lead to degradation is necessary for formulating effective conservation methods [8].

European architecture has undergone a continuous evolution, with each period and style reflecting the social, political, and technological advancements of its time. From the Romanesque era with its robust, fortress-like structures to the intricate details of

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Baroque architecture[9], each period has left its unique mark on the European landscape. European architecture encompasses a diverse range of styles that have evolved over centuries, reflecting the continent's rich history and cultural influences. Key characteristics include drawing inspiration from ancient Greece and Rome, European architecture often emphasizes classical principles of symmetry, proportion, and order. This is evident in the use of elements like columns (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian), arches, and domes. This architecture is renowned for its high level of craftsmanship, with skilled artisans employing a variety of techniques, including stone carving, wood carving, and metalwork, to create intricate and beautiful details [10].

Brick structure has a long history since the Indus Valley Civilization. The people used fire-cooked bricks for their town planning. Likewise, the trend continued and firstly sundried bricks were used and progressively new idea of burnt brick was industrialized. The practice was continued and numerous later-built structures were constructed with bricks. Correspondingly, bricks were used for frequent historical buildings, and every ruler built heritage according to his taste and requirements of the time. Bricks were the major beneficial material used for the construction of colonial buildings. Poonch House Lahore also has brickwork in it from foundation to top. In Post-colonial architecture, architects attained the expression by intermingling traditional, colonial, and modern rudiments. Colonial and traditional elements have emerged in modern straight or polygonal, curvilinear lines and stylized formation of the buildings followed by simplicity with sharp and soft contours as in Poonch House Lahore in its Front Facade [11].

After the inception of Pakistan, it was used as an Industrial Museum and Library from 1950 to 1985. Later on, the Office of Directorate General of Industries Department was shifted to the building and presently, it is being used as the office of Directorate General of Industries, Prices, Weights & Measures. Moreover, offices of the Cooperative, Forestry and Mines & Minerals Departments and Punjab Health Foundation are also located within the Premises [12].

Many elements in the facade of Poonch House Lahore are from European architecture like columns are baroque, some elements are neoclassical, and in the interior, we have fresco painting, and wooden carving as mentioned above for the exterior façade we have stucco [13, 14].

This notable historic structure of Poonch House remained in a poor state of conservation from 1849 to 2023. It has suffered more due to human defacement than natural calamities. This historic building, which serves as the headquarters for the Directorate General of Industries, Mines & Minerals in Punjab, has not been well-maintained. The historical structure shows significant signs of decay of various structural, architectural & decorative elements due to constant neglect of its proper maintenance and upkeep. Moreover, poor upkeep, lack of skills, and inconsistent use other than its original purpose Poonch House which is a 175-year-old building, naturally undergoes decay with age. However, its fundamental structure remains robust with a foundation that elevates the entire edifice magnificently. Over time, various interventions have been implemented to convert this residential structure

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into an office setup, particularly following Pakistan's independence. The primary interventions that have accelerated the decay process of this building were the use of non-compatible materials like cement and concrete to the exterior, ostensibly to shield it from external factors and environmental impacts. Unfortunately, this intervention badly damaged the main structure, fabric, and decorative features.
Moreover, internal false ceilings and wall paneling further impede air circulation, resulting in damage to the roof and internal walls. Residential rooms were being used as office cabins and spaces, altering the building's original and natural features. The façade was marred by repeated lime wash/ paints had altered its appearance.
Furthermore, a previous fire outbreak caused significant damage to the wooden roof, doors, and staircase in the central entrance lobby and was later replaced with concrete, iron, and precast roof elements. Original wooden doors were either removed or substituted with aluminum and glass counterparts, detracting from the building's authentic appearance. Overall, due to inadequate funds and a lack of proper repairs and maintenance, seepage from the roof has weakened supporting walls and the structural integrity as well as the authenticity of this historical structure. Such factors collectively accelerated the decay of this historic architectural landmark.

Present Condition

Many hidden wiped-off features around doors, windows, and ventilators were badly damaged. Original doors & windows were either missing or in a bad state of conservation. Repairs made time and again were made with modern and non-compatible materials resulting in fast deterioration of structural members and decorative features. Many doors, windows, openings, and ceilings were blocked unethically. The upper floor of the Porch on the northern side was bricked up and was being used as a clerical office defacing the original structure. Moreover, the original wooden louvers used at the ground & 1st Floor were also partially broken/ missing[8].
It has more than 14 (Fourteen) types of burnt bricks of variegated shapes & sizes to be prepared to revive the original features. Original doors & windows which were either missing or in a bad state of conservation should be restored. Moreover, original materials should be used for conservation. Fresco paintings discovered have to be preserved through a qualified team of archaeological Chemists in the Archaeology department. Many doors, windows, openings, and ceilings that are blocked with modern materials also be revived.
Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907, in Chak 105 GB (Banga) Lyallpur (Faisalabad) into a Sikh jut Sindhu family with a history of political activism. Bhagat Singh was considered to be one of the most famous rebels of the Bhartiya Independence movement. After completion of his primary education from Chak 105 GB (Banga) Bhagat Singh was sent to Lahore for higher education, he joined D.A V. High School and then National College founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, from where he graduated in 1923. At a young age, Singh became a passionate follower of revolutionary ideas and socialism. The Ghadar Movement left a deep inscription on his mind. Kartar Singh Sarabha, hanged at the age of 19, became his hero. In the

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early 1920s, Singh became involved with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), a revolutionary organization aimed at overthrowing British rule through armed struggle. He worked closely with leaders like Sukhdev Singh, and his ideology transitioned towards socialism and radical change [15].

His determination and eloquence during the trials made him a symbol of resistance against colonial rule. The government responded with severe measures, but Singh used the platform to advocate for freedom and justice. The final trial was held in Poonch House, Lahore where he was given a death sentence. Tragically, on March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, along with his comrades Rajguru and Sukhdev, was executed by the British government in Camp Jail, Lahore. Through his courage and ideals, Bhagat Singh transcends time, an eternal beacon of resistance and the unwavering pursuit of freedom. To Promote the cultural significance of Poonch and to commemorate Bhagat Singh's advocacy for independence and justice, a Picture Gallery has been established comprising of the life history of Bhagat Singh as well as his family, comrades & other relevant archival documents [15, 16]. Significantly, Poonch House itself holds profound historical resonance as the site of the Bhagat Sing sedition trial during the British era.

Poonch House, Lahore, a colonial-era architectural jewel, blends European and local styles with grand facades, balance, and intricate craftsmanship. Built in 1849, it has served various purposes, from a residence to government offices. Despite its historical significance, neglect and incompatible restorations have led to its deterioration. The site also holds political importance as the venue for Bhagat Singh's trial before his execution in 1931. Conservation efforts are crucial to preserving its architectural integrity, including restoring frescoes, wooden elements, and original brickwork. A Picture Gallery now honors Bhagat Singh's legacy, reinforcing Poonch House's cultural and historical significance.

Significance of Research

The poor condition of Poonch House highlights broader issues of insufficient attention to important heritage buildings. Despite its historical and architectural value, there have been no major restoration projects were initiated to preserve this landmark due to inadequate preservation policies. Many parts of the building were rapidly deteriorating, with visible damages due to a lack of conservation. Moreover, no significant restoration initiative or any significant effort for the preservation of this historical structure was made in the past. Hence the following research project has been undertaken to resolve the concerned gap.

Research Methodology

The present study employs a technique that mostly consists of text analysis and library search with a focus on the ideas The literature review involved collecting primary data from public papers and databases, scrutinizing documents and cultural events in Lahore City, and examining the cultural and historical context. The research methodology involves the following steps:

- A thorough literature review of Poonch House Lahore.

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- Library searches for additional context.
- Comparative analysis to highlight similarities and differences.
- Architectural documentation included evaluating style, decoration, structure, materials, techniques, and original craftsmanship.
- Photographic documentation and conservation measures were also included.

Data Collection & Analysis

Among the very renowned historical buildings of Lahore, Poonch House located on Multan Road near Chauburji Gateway is among the very first buildings of the colonial era in Lahore City. It is a double-story building with eight rooms, four halls, one conference room, a lobby, three store rooms, three staircases on the ground floor as shown in Figure 17, and six rooms, a corridor, four halls, three store rooms at first floor as shown in Figure 19 and on roof floor we have two store rooms as shown in Figure 18 which is a blend of local, European Architecture having grand facades, balance, proportions & harmony, structural elements like columns, architrave, entablature etc. are admirable. Moreover, the use of traditional local materials & techniques like clay bricks, lime mortar, wooden elements, steel girders, etc. Its exact coordinates are 31°33'03"N 74°18'06"E. Different damages have been documented through photography as mentioned below in detail.

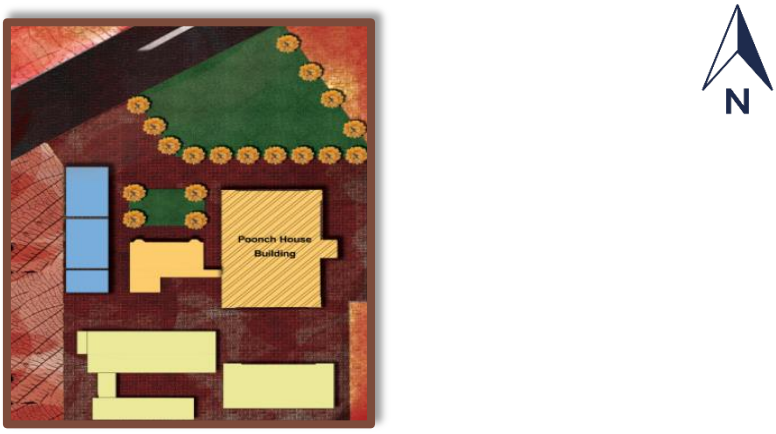

Figure 1. Master Plan of Poonch House

Figure 2. Poonch House on Google Map

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FAÇADE

The façade (upper surface) of the region is severely compromised and requires restoration. It is evident that the bricks are absent and the plaster layer has significantly deteriorated. The missing bricks are due to damage inflicted by avian and insect activity. Furthermore, the little masonry and stonework are not only absent but also damaged in several areas. The damages have obliterated all demarcations and borders of the architectural features employed in it. The masonry is damaged, making it hard to distinguish the individual components. The structure is damaged, with shattered edges that have resulted in a loss of normal alignment and aesthetic appeal. The borders of the building's front facade are compromised, suggesting that the eaves have sustained damage from precipitation and a lack of proper maintenance or reinforcement. This requires repair to ensure that the eaves effectively protect the structure from water and rain. Climate had a strong impact on the deterioration of the building. Significant voids and loss of material are also evident. Similar to the state of the inside, the outside walls have also deteriorated, resulting in the loss of stone and brickwork. This results from the extensive deterioration of the masonry and insufficient upkeep of the structure.

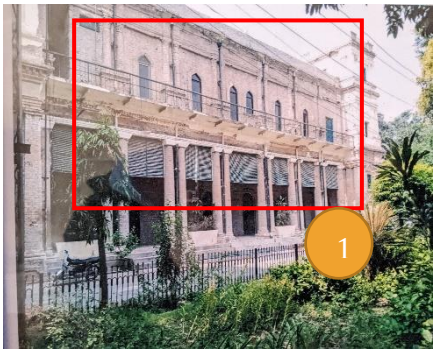

Figure 3. Facade from Main Chauburji Road

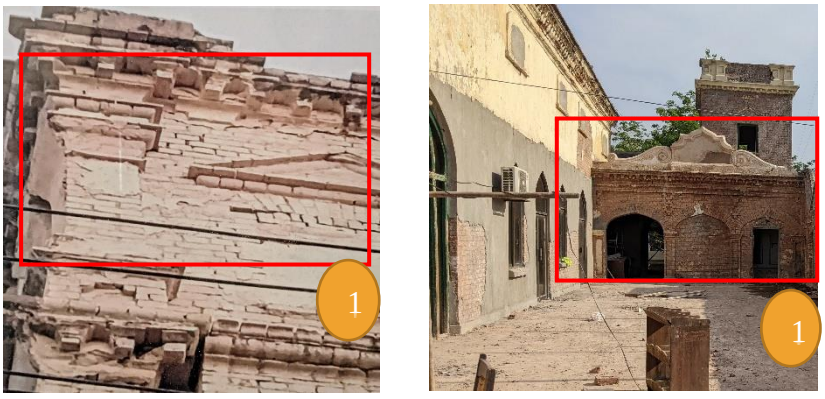

Figure 4. Wall Condition Exposed Brickwork

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Table 1.Wall Decaying Causes

Sr. No	Decay	Cause of Decay	Recovery
1	Figures 3 & 4 show that the outer facade has seen a loss of color and pigmentation. Also, the masonry is damaged have deteriorated.	Climate and lack of maintenance are the main causes of its decay	Proper maintenance and use of original material for restoration.

Figure 5. Bridge Condition

Table 2. Bridge Decaying Causes

Sr. No	Decay	Cause of Decay	Recovery
2	Figure 5 shows that the bridge has suffered significant destruction. The stucco covering has deteriorated and the bricks are visible.	Climate and lack of maintenance are the main causes of its decay. Also, local materials are used for its restoration.	Proper maintenance and use of original material for restoration.

There is a bridge on the first floor of it which connects it to the next building. This bridge has suffered significant destruction, and several obstacles had to be addressed before the documentation of the site. The stucco covering has deteriorated and the

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bricks are visible. Due to cheap quality local plaster, the bricks have suffered structural deformity because these bricks were more compatible with previously used stucco.

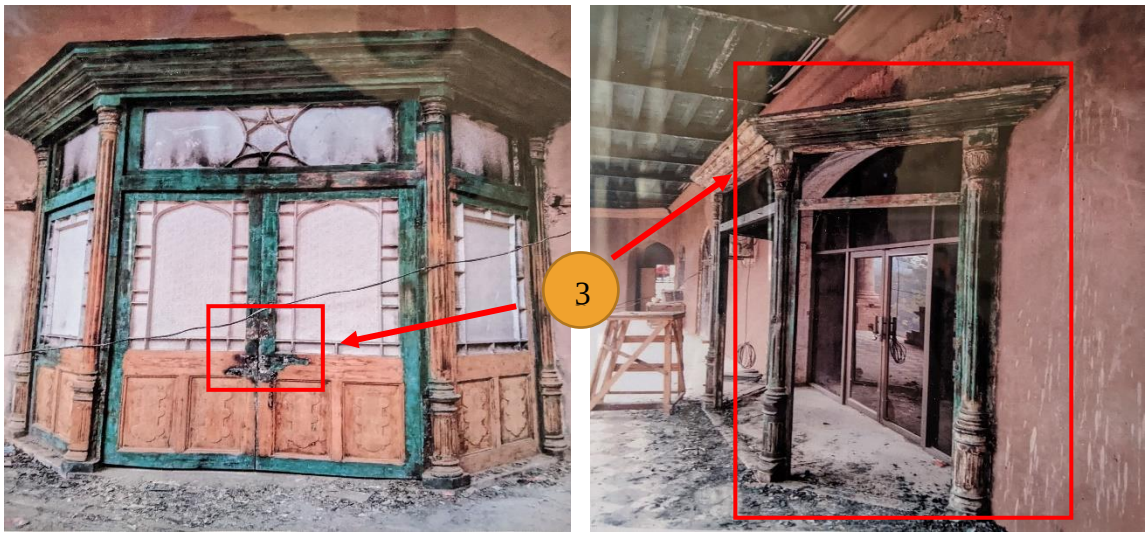

Figure 6. Condition of Portico

Table 3. Portico Decaying Causes

Sr. No	Decay	Cause of Decay	Recovery
3	Figure 6 shows that the building's Portico has caused severe damage and cedar wood is destroyed. To further illustrate the state of decay, the brass latchkeys that were originally used as safe locking devices have also been damaged.	Climate and lack of maintenance are the main causes of its decay.	Proper maintenance and use of original material for restoration.

Due to neglect, the building's portico, which was mostly made of cedar wood with built-in glass window panes, has completely collapsed. Destructive damage has resulted from the serious deterioration of the structural integrity. Figure 6 provides a graphic illustration of this degradation, showing the degree of the deterioration as well as the effects of inadequate care.

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Figure 7. Present Condition of Windows and Doors

Table 4. Windows and Doors Decaying Causes

Sr. No	Decay	Cause of Decay	Recovery
4	Figure 7 shows that the doors and windows of the building are destroyed and lost their original form.	Climate and lack of maintenance are the main causes of its decay. Also, local materials are used for its restoration.	Proper maintenance and use of original material for restoration.

The doors and windows made up of cedar wood are also destroyed to an extreme extent. Extreme negligence has been done in taking care of these components of the building. For repairing the windows local iron sheets that were not used originally caused significant destruction to the aesthetics and originality of the building.

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Figure 8. Cement Destroying Walls and its Elements

Table 5. Wall and its Elements Decaying Causes

Sr. No	Decay	Cause of Decay	Recovery
5	Figure 8 shows that cement was used for its restoration at times which added fuel to the deterioration of the building.	Climate and lack of maintenance are the main causes of its decay. Also, local materials are used for its restoration.	Proper maintenance and use of original material for restoration.

Repairs were made from time to time and again with modern and non-compatible materials resulting in fast deterioration of structural members and decorative features as shown in Figure 08. For repair purposes, they used today's material which worked as fuel to fire for the deterioration of the structure of Poonch House.

Figure 9. Condition of louver

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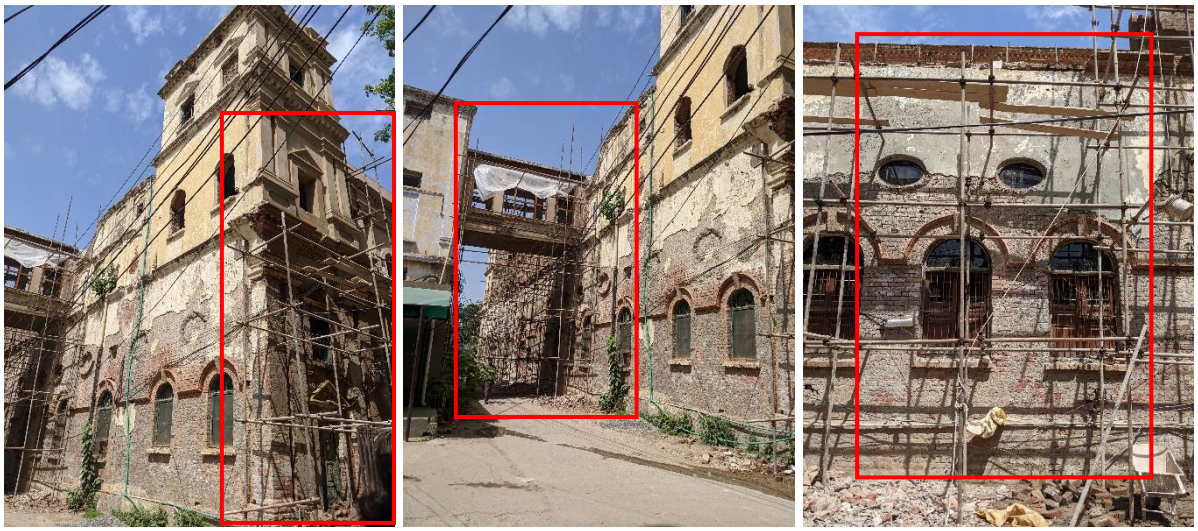

Figure 10. Renovation Work at Some Parts of the Building

When this research is being conducted, some parts of the buildings are under renovation but long-range renovation has not started. The exterior facade and terrace of the first floor were under renovation. They are trying to conserve the façade by using stucco that was originally used in the building when it was first constructed in 1849. The terrace is also restored to its original form by removing the modern and local plaster used and using the ancient stucco here too. The interior of the building is still unattended and no serious efforts have been made to conserve this part of the building yet.

Interior

The central staircase was of pure Cedar wood which was destroyed due to lack of maintenance and observance. A previous fire outbreak caused significant damage to the wooden roof, doors, and staircase in the central entrance lobby and was later replaced with concrete, iron, and precast roof elements which again damaged its structure badly.

Figure 11. Condition of Central Staircase

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Figure 12. Condition of Floor

There are two types of floors used in Poonch House one is a Chips floor and the other is the wooden floor. Chips floor is mostly used in corridors and are detreated as shown in Figure 12 and wooden floor is used in halls and rooms. On roofs, we have timbers, rafters, beams, and Girders of Wood and Steel as mentioned above.

Elements of Poonch House

Figure 13. Condition of Ventilators

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Table 6. Ventilators Decaying Causes

Sr. No	Decay	Cause of Decay	Recovery
1	Figure 13 shows two types of ventilators that caused damage and loss of their original form and shape. Also loss of stucco	Climate and lack of maintenance are the main causes of its decay. Also, local materials are used for its restoration.	Proper maintenance and use of original material for restoration.

Poonch House has around forty-six ventilators of two types as shown in Figure 13 but only fourteen of them are open. The reason behind it is considered to be Noise Pollution and Air pollution. All ventilators have the same condition as shown.

Doors

The entrance has a carved wooden door with metal (Brass) laches and locks. They are also in very bad form as shown in Figure 14. Although some doors are in good condition most doors have the same deuterated form. Also time to time humans closed doors according to their needs by which it lost its original charm.

Figure 14. Types of Doors

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Table 7. Doors Sizes and Description

Sr. No	Size			Description
	Width	Height	Sill	
D1	7'-10"	8'-0"	0'-0"	Wooden – Glass
D2	4'-10"	8'-0"	0'-0"	
D3	4'-09"	8'-0"	0'-0"	
D4	4'-07"	8'-0"	0'-0"	Wooden
D5	4'-06"	8'-0"	0'-0"	
D6	4'-0"	8'-0"	0'-0"	Wooden – Glass
D7	3'-11"	8'-0"	0'-0"	Wooden
D8	3'-10"	8'-0"	0'-0"	Wooden – Glass

Windows

Windows are also in the same condition as of doors but with a little change that humans changed some original windows with modern aluminum and glass windows which directly damaged the aesthetics of the building as shown in Figure 15.

Figure 14. Types of Windows Used

Table 8. Windows Sizes and Description

Sr. No	Size			Description
	Width	Height	Sill	
W1	4'-3"	5'-0"	3'-0"	Wooden – Glass
W2	4'-0"	5'-0"	3'-0"	
W3	3'-10"	5'-0"	3'-0"	
W4	3'-0"	5'-0"	3'-0"	Wooden

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Results and Discussions

The structure has suffered significant damage over the years due to neglect, environmental factors, and human intervention. The walls show signs of cracking, erosion, and instability, posing a risk of collapse. Previous attempts at "restoration" have often involved the use of inappropriate materials and techniques, such as modern cement plasters, which have further exacerbated the damage to the original fabric as shown in Figure 8. It has been largely abandoned, with no regular maintenance or conservation efforts. This has led to the accumulation of debris, and accelerated deterioration of the structure [12].

Whereas, the use of modern materials like cement and concrete, while perhaps envisioned to protect the building, has unluckily exacerbated the deterioration. This highlights the significance of using compatible materials and traditional techniques in restoration projects. The fact that some restoration efforts are underway using traditional stucco (a type of exterior plaster) [17], is a positive sign, but the interior remains largely mistreated, requiring immediate attention as shown in Figure 8.

The blocked ventilators raise worries about indoor air quality and its probable impact on the building's fabric as shown in Figure 13. Restoring their functionality is crucial not only for conserving the building's original design but also for ensuring its lasting health [18].

To address these issues, the conservation plan proposes the following key measures:

- Comprehensive repairs and strengthening of the structure, including walls, and foundations, using traditional materials and techniques to restore structural integrity.
- Removal of inappropriate modern additions and reinstatement of its original architectural elements, such as the stucco, based on historical documentation and on-site investigation.
- Establishment of a regular maintenance regime, including periodic inspections, cleaning, and minor repairs, to prevent further deterioration and ensure the long-term preservation of the Poonch House.
- All ventilators should be opened to regain their original form and ventilation.
- The same material should be used for its conservation as cement and plaster have already done too much damage to its structure and elements.

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Plans

Plans and Elevations are developed as part of the documentation

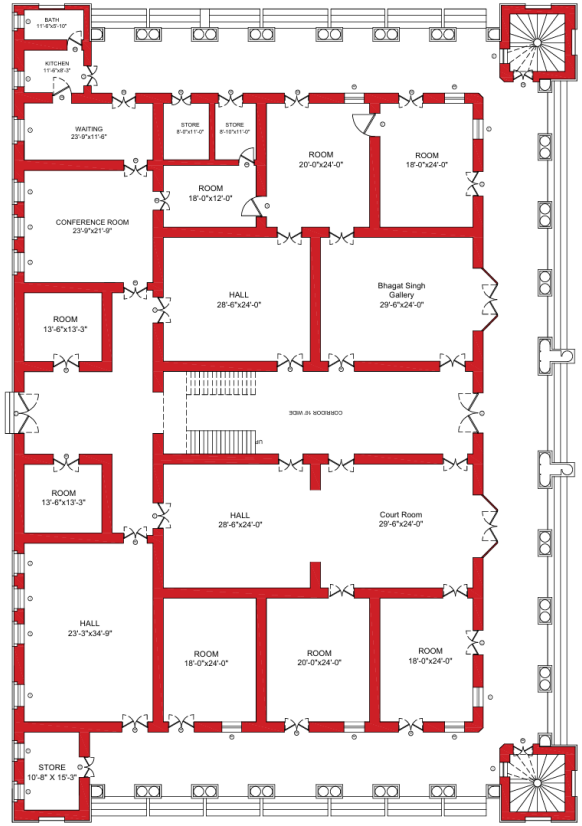

Figure 15. Ground Floor Plan

Figure 17. First Floor Plan

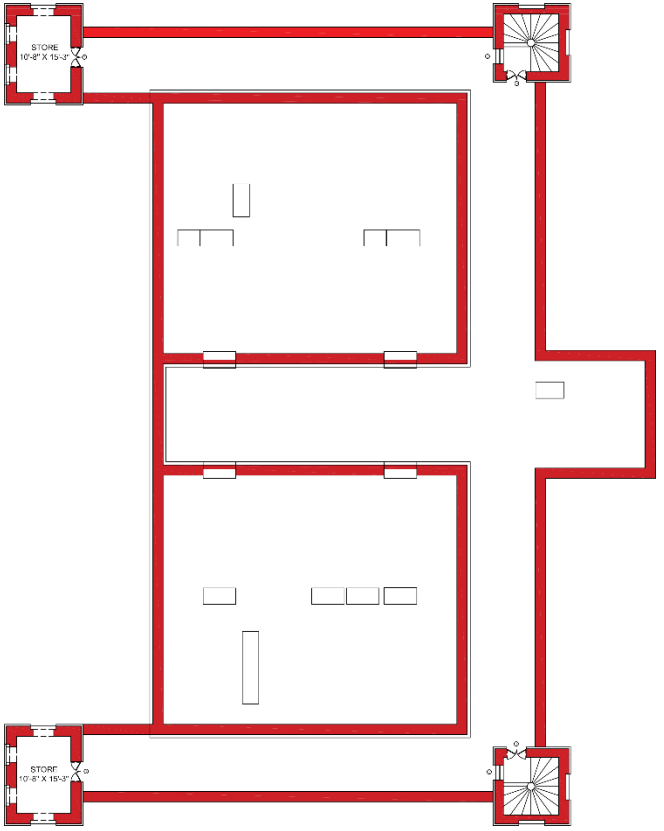

Figure 18. Roof Floor Plan

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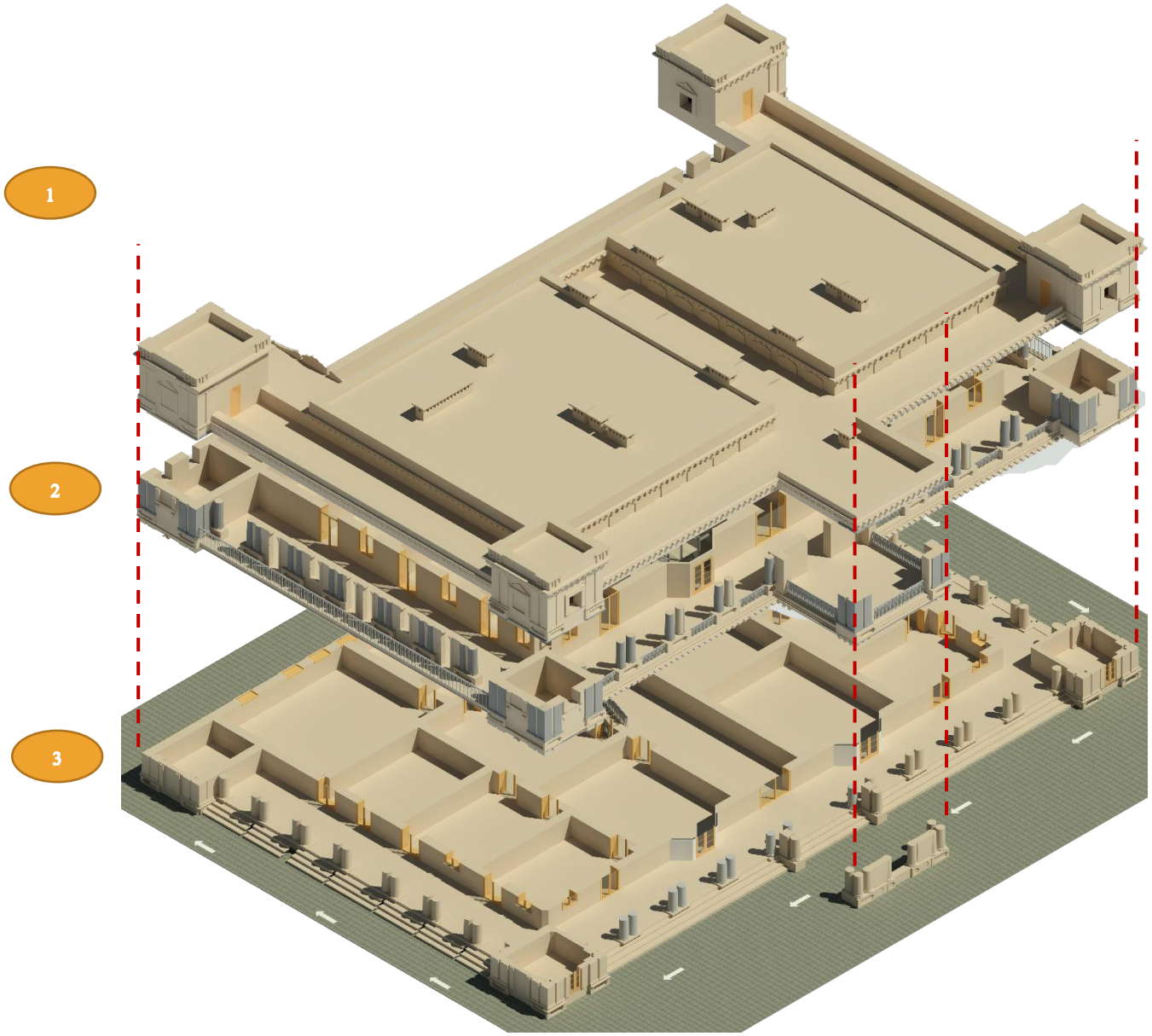
3D Floor Plan View



1	Roof Floor
2	First Floor
3	Ground Floor

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Elevations

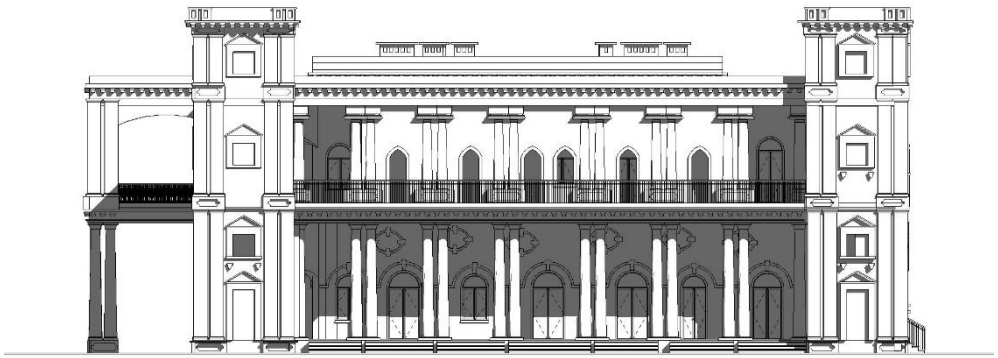

Figure 16. North Elevation

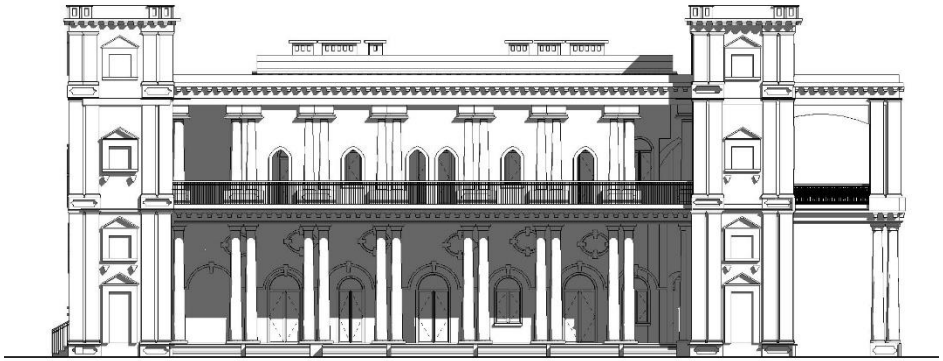

Figure 17. South Elevation

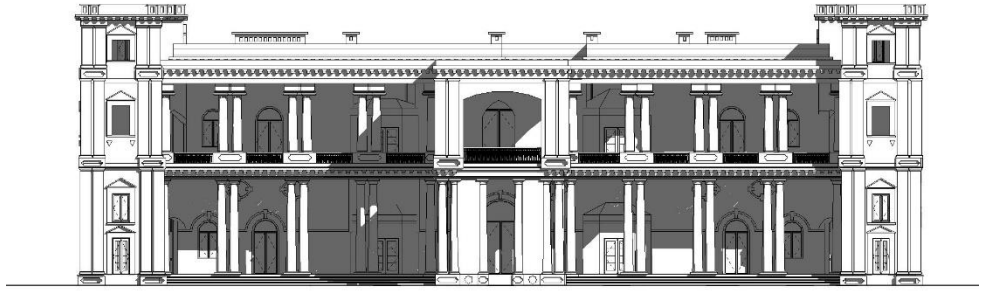

Figure 18. East Elevation

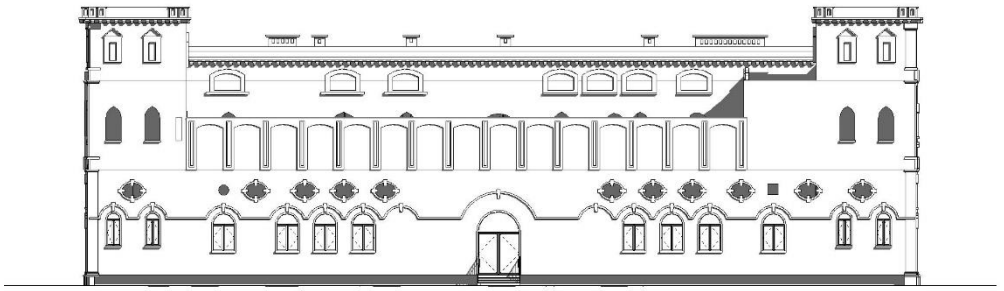

Figure 19. West Elevation

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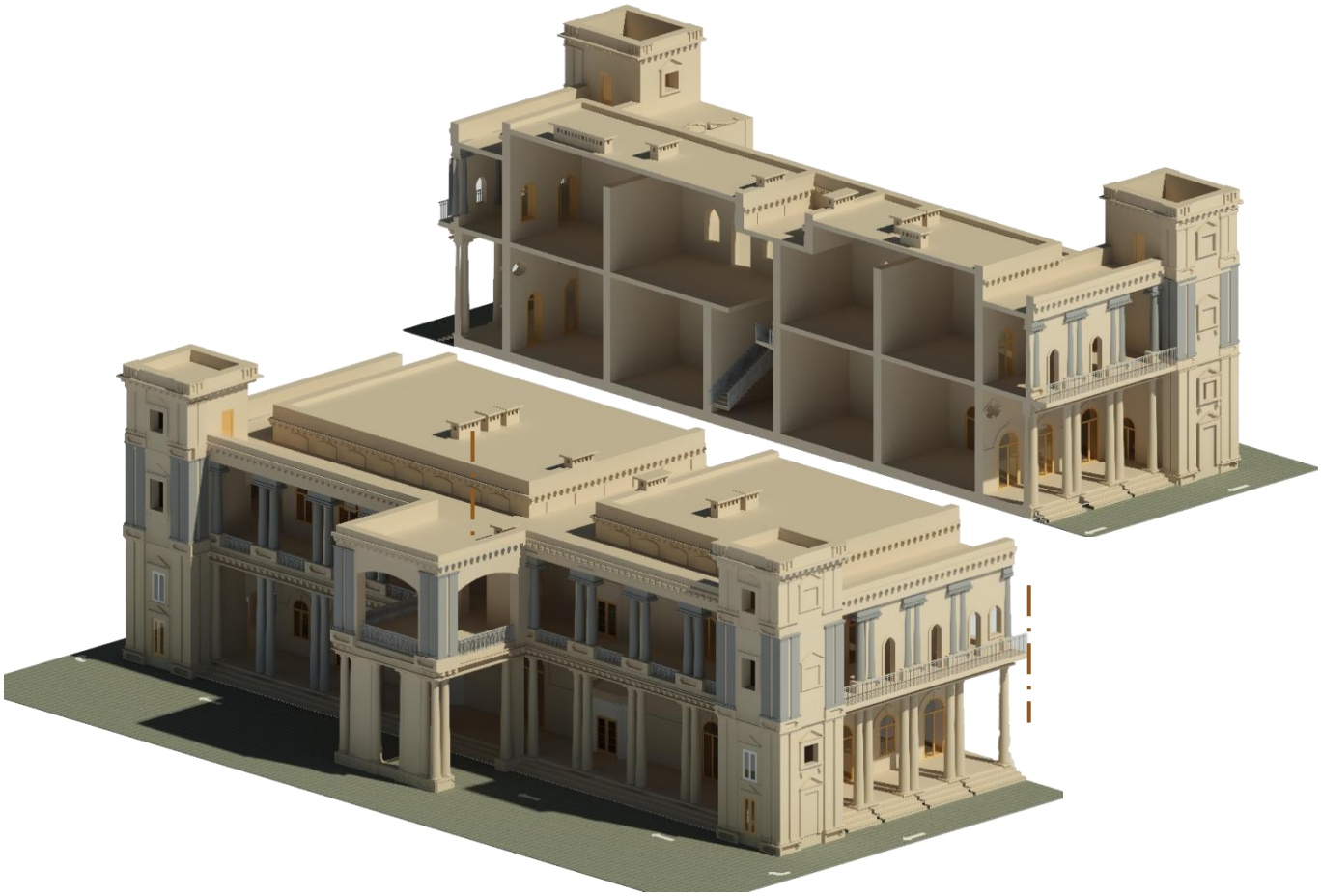
3D Section view

There is a 3D sectional view of the building of Poonch House Lahore developed to show its details more clearly.



Columns

In Poonch House Lahore there are 152 (one hundred fifty and two) columns are used and are of three types as shown in Figure 23. There are 118 (one hundred eighteen) round columns and 34 (thirty-four) square columns which are half in wall and half visible. Columns on the left side are on the first floor, columns in the center are on the ground floor and square columns are on both floors as well as on the roof floor as shown in Figures 19, 20, 21 & 22.

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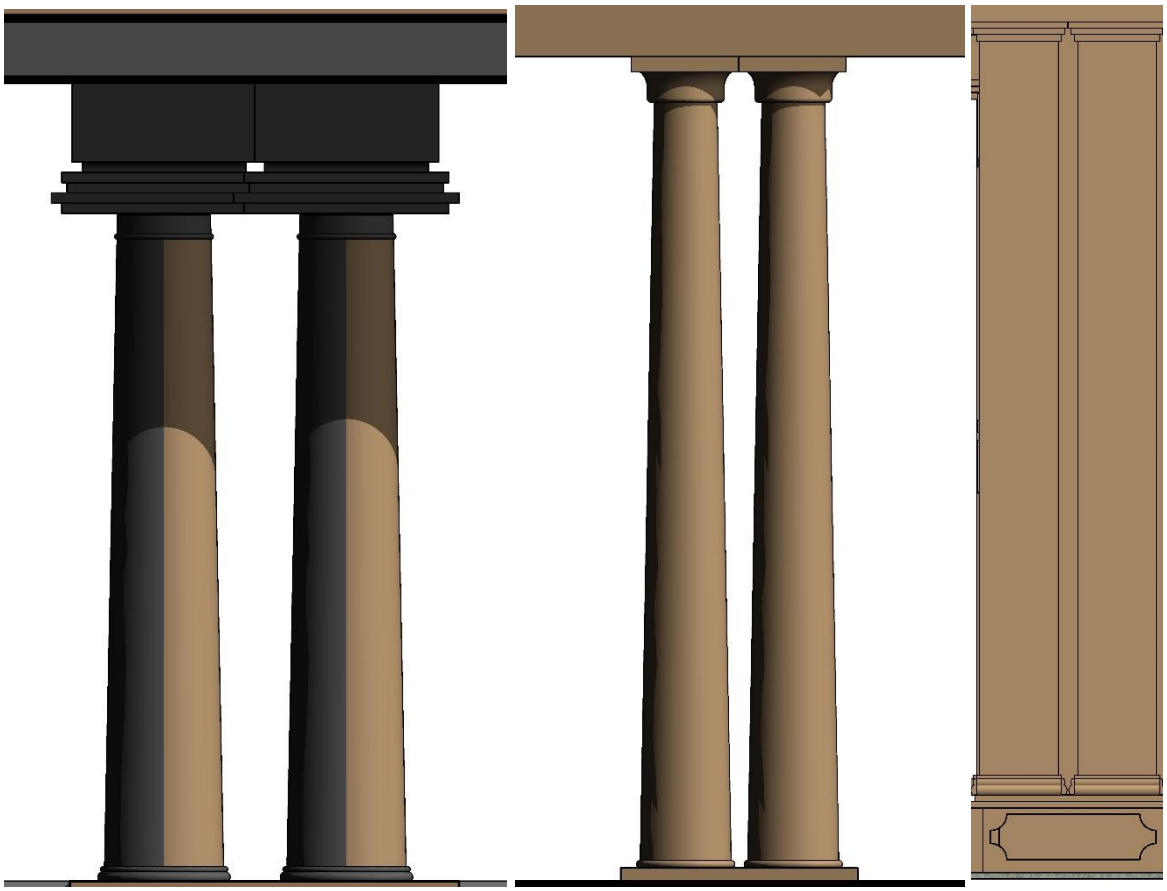

Figure 20. Types of Columns in Poonch House

It has more than fourteen types of bricks used for its aesthetics and construction. Also used in other heritage buildings like Sir Shadi Lal, Badshahi Mosque Shahi Qila, etc. [19].

In 2023, a project titled "Capacity Building and Upgradation of Directorate General Industries, Prices, Weights and Measures (DG IPWM)" was conceived and initiated by the Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Department (ICI&SD). The execution, Operation & Maintenance agencies for the project were entrusted to DG, IPWM in collaboration with the C&W Department, Govt. of Punjab. The main objective of the project was the introduction of digital interventions in existing practices to achieve reliable, quick, and transparent results and Capacity building of existing human resources. Another part of the Project was the conservation of the main façade of Poonch House with technical assistance from the Archaeology Department [20].

The preservation of Poonch House encompasses not just structural conservation but also the preservation of its cultural and aesthetic heritage. Similar issues have been brought to light in the Shalimar Garden situation, where maintaining cultural identity depends significantly on the preservation of architectural [21]. This

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emphasizes the necessity of a thorough approach to heritage preservation, ensuring the preservation of both historical aesthetics and structural integrity.

The decline of Poonch House can be attributed not only to neglect and unsuitable res toration attempts but also to overarching infrastructure issues seen in swiftly urbaniz ing regions. The invasion of modern developments, insufficient urban planning, and inadequate maintenance systems have profoundly affected heritage structures. Comparable difficulties have been noted in other burgeoning metropolitan regions, where infrastructural deficiencies intensify the deterioration of constructed [22]. The case in Taluka Khairpur illustrates how inadequate urban infrastructure design can negatively impact historical and cultural assets, underscoring the necessity for cohesive conservation measures that correspond with sustainable urban development.

The government of Punjab initiated a project for Capacity Building of the Directorate of Industries Department during the financial year 2022-23 with a small component for the restoration of the facade of Poonch House. Later on, the Secretary, of Industries, Commerce, Investment, and Skill Development decided to take comprehensive measures for the conservation of this architectural Jewel. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab during a visit to Poonch House in Ramadan directed all necessary measures to revive the historical structure as per the original.

For the first time, detailed architectural documentation of Poonch House by a team of volunteer Students from PTUT (Punjab Tianjin University of Technology) under the supervision of Teachers & Experts was completed. (Training/capacity building of students) [12].

Conclusion

The research highlights the vital need for the comprehensive conservation of the Poonch House Lahore, a monument that stands testimony to Lahore's affluent colonial heritage. Given its architectural value and historical link with the Bhagat Singh trial, the building should not be demolished and should be preserved for generations to come. But the building's integrity has been ravaged by decades of neglect, wrong-headed interventions, and time. The analysis noted many problems, including. Severe damage, major cracking, erosion, and instability of the structure due to negligence, environment, and the past restoration. Incompatible materials used in past repairs like cement and concrete have been damaging original materials over time, including brick, lime mortar, and wood. Alterations that have Significant and Detrimental Impact on the Integrity of the Building: The removal of original doors and windows, and the addition of non-original elements have collectively resulted in the loss of architectural integrity of the building.

The study advocates a multi-faceted approach to conservation, including Adequate documentation is essential for understanding the original state of the building and for informing whatever work is to come through detailed records of architectural drawings, photographic archives, and material analysis. Researching the history of the building and its tenants or association with the Bhagat Singh trial will increase the cultural significance of the building and promote pride with the general public. It

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is essential to use materials that are as original as possible, with lime mortar and traditional woodworking techniques covering the main ones.

This research serves as a crucial first step towards the long-term conservation of Poonch House. The findings of this study will inform future conservation interventions, ensuring that this important historical landmark is preserved for generations to come. Recent initiatives by the Government of Punjab, including the involvement of students from PTUT in documentation efforts and the allocation of funds for façade restoration, demonstrate a positive step towards ensuring the long-term preservation of this significant heritage asset.

Future Directions and Limitations

This building can be conserved for a longer time by using the same material as used originally such as bricks, mortar, and wood to maintain aesthetics and structure integrity. The cracks, moisture damage, and weakened portions need extra care. Protect intricate carvings, frescoes, and inscriptions by using appropriate conservation methods. There is a limit to which a building can be restored. This building has suffered extreme loss for decades and centuries, a significant portion of it can be restored but not everything can be brought into place and made perfect. The exact mortar that was used in the construction of the building is not investigated in detail to date. The chemical composition, procedure of preparation, and structural advantages are still to be known.

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