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About the Research Plan of Torob Tepa Archaeological Monument

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Annotation

This article covers the issues of studying the history of the construction of the archaeological monument of Torob Tepa and its place in the history of architecture; preparation of full-fledged information about the object and analysis of materials; development of a conservation project based on the results of research in order to prevent its destruction.

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As we know from history, Central Asia, in particular, the so-called Movarounnahr region, which is between two rivers, has attracted the attention of many countries of the world since time immemorial. Over thousands of years, oppressed invaders from the West and the East have repeatedly occupied the territory of Central Asia and turned it into their colonies. Many of our patriots showed courage and heroism and left an indelible mark in history.

Among such heroes, about the bravery and courage of Temur Malik, Jalaluddin Manguberdi, and Najmuddin Kubro, who fought against the Mongol invaders, were written in golden letters on the pages of history. One of such great figures who led the peoples uprising against the Mongols in liberating Bukhara and its surrounding lands, especially Bukhara and Karmana, is our countryman Mahmud Torobi. [1]

Ancient Bukhara consists of archaeological monuments that served a number of different functions, one of which is the monument of Torob Hill. This monument is the hill of Mahmud Tarobi (Torob Tepa) located in the northeast of the village of Torob, Jondor District. The name of the hill comes from the historical village of Torob. The first information about the village of Torob was mentioned in the book "al-Ansab" by Abdulkarim al-Samani: "Torob is one of the villages of Bukhara and is located near the village of Khunbun (Khumun)." Narshakhi calls this village Tarovcha. According to folk etymology, Torob means a small, narrow place (tor-ob) of the stream. [2]

Torob is mentioned by Arab geographers as a large village 4 farsakh from Bukhara. Torob Tepa gained particular fame as the homeland of Mahmud Torabi, the leader of the popular uprising in 1238, and as the birthplace of this movement. In the 16th century, Torob was considered the center of the district, it bordered Khayrabod district, sandy desert and Zarafshan, and this area was widely occupied

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by the population. [3]

The monument consists of 3 parts - a fortress extending from north to south with a large rectangular area and two separate residential areas. The base of the hill is 200x125 meters, the upper part is 170x85 meters and the height is 10 meters. There is a mosque in the eastern part of the castle, surrounded by a thatched wall. The settlement-array has a rectangular plan and stretches from north to south. It is 200 meters long and 60-100 meters wide. Its height reaches 4 meters. About 80 meters north of the castle is another residential complex. Stretching from west to east, this place is 270 meters long and 3 meters high. In ancient times, the population was very dense around the Torob fortress. According to the available information, this historical object was built in the IV-V centuries and operated until the XIX century. [4]

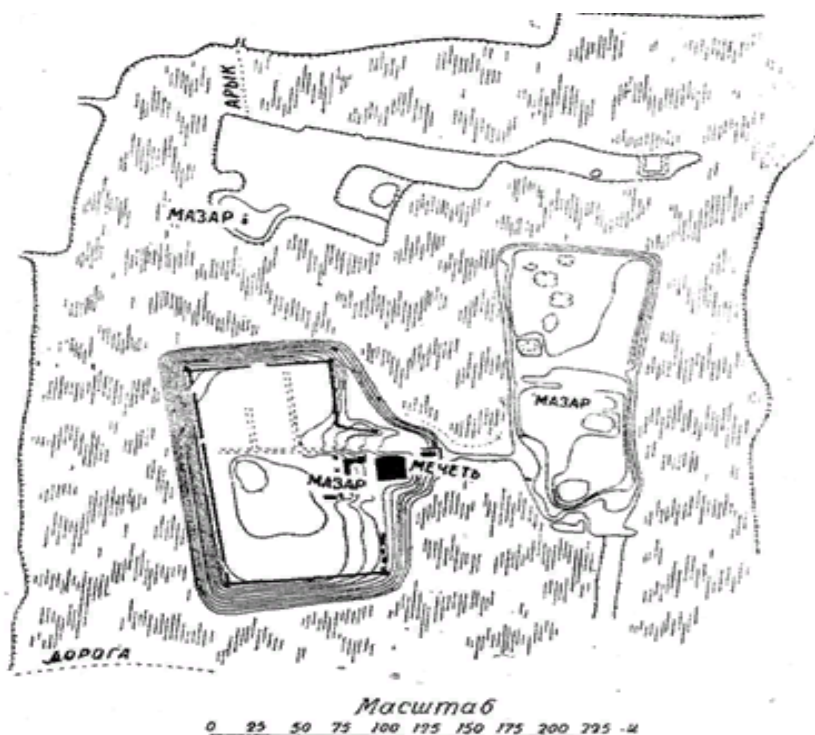


Figure 1. Map of Torob fortress. 1937 year

The location and structure of the monument was first discovered in 1937 by the head of the expedition of the former USSR Institute of History and Archeology V.A. Shishkin drew attention, and according to his conclusions, in 1937, the walls of Torob Hill were partly made of straw and partly of raw brick, and at that time they were relatively well preserved. The castle gates are on the eastern side. Not far from them is a mosque with a porch (relatively new - 19th century), now this mosque has been rebuilt for the purpose of holding religious ceremonies. In front of the mosque there are insignificant half-ruined buildings, and behind it is the tomb of "Khoja Torob". [4]

The fortress structure consists of the following. A large rectangular hill was considered a "knee" (ark) - a fortress or a ruler's palace in ancient times. There were settlements before the castle on the other two hills. An artificial wetland surrounds the castle and the village.

Research in the area was continued in 1964 by Ya. Gulomov, a true member of the UzSSR FA, and under his leadership, an expedition to historical places was organized under the heading "Trailing the graves of famous people". The history of the mound and the existing five clay plaster tombs are

explored. A well-known scientist testified that at that time there were five graves on the hill and one grave next to each saghana. He put forward the opinion that these are the graves of Mahmoud Torobi, Shamsuddin Mahbubi, Khomush, Muhammad and Ali Torobi. Even in the years of independence, the monument was researched several times by the staff of the Institute of Archeology of the FA of Uzbekistan (now the National Archaeological Center of the FA of Uzbekistan).



Figure 2. Aerial photo of Torob Tepa today.

Information about Torob hill can be found in several literatures. In particular, in 1988, Professor R. Vahidov of BukhSU and Associate Professor of the World History Department of BukhSU A. Khamroev touched upon the history of the hill in their pamphlet dedicated to Mahmud Torobi. Including: "... Let's remember the memory of our brave descendants! It is our duty to perpetuate their name, beautify their resting place, build a museum, and talk about their bravery in our classes" - Dez had good intentions. [5]



Figure 3. Remains of straw and raw brick wall at Torob Tepa. 2021 year.

In October 2021, Torob Tepa was explored by the authors of this book. The hill and its surroundings, which are being used as a cemetery, have been photographed for history. Today, Torob Tepa is completely surrounded as a cemetery. Torob fortress is entered from the north through the gate.

Based on the analysis of the studied sources, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Torob hill existed as a guard hill in IV-VI centuries AD long before it was mentioned in historical sources with this name.
2. It was important as a trade center in the XI-XIII centuries.
3. After the fight against the Mongols in 1238, it left a name in history as a military stronghold of the local hero Mahmud Torobi.
4. By the 16th century, it regained its importance as a trade and administrative center.

In the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 849 dated October 4, 2019 "On approval of the national list of immovable property objects of tangible cultural heritage", Torob fortress was registered as a cultural heritage object. This object is only registered, nothing else has been done and is not being done. [5]



Figure 4. An old stone well at Torob Tepa. 2021 year

The purpose of this study is to add new lines to the history of Mahmoud Torobi and his comrades, who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country, and to develop a conservation project in order to improve these sacred places and prevent the erosion of this monument based on the results of the research, and to preserve it for future generations.

For this purpose, we have prepared a proposal for researching the historical-archaeological and architectural study of Makhmud Torobi fortress located in Jondor district of Bukhara region, and for this we believe that the following activities should be carried out

Form of research: historical-archeological and architectural study of Makhmud Torobi fortress located in Jondor district of Bukhara region, as well as conservation of this structure for future generations; - To determine the construction history of this architectural monument and its place in the history of architecture; - In case of allocation of funds, conducting archaeological excavations, preparing complete information about the object and analyzing them

Results of scientific research: - Based on the results of the research, a conservation project will be

developed in order to prevent the erosion of this monument and preserve it for future generations; - A new tourist object and tourist route will appear, which in turn will be the basis for the prosperity of this region and for our people to get additional information about their history;

Publication of scientific results: Research results are published in scientific journals listed in UzOAK and in Web of Science or Scopus journals. It will contribute to the introduction of a new and expanded subject to the architectural history of Bukhara and to the improvement of the tourist attraction of Bukhara.

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