

ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (CHI): Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria and Iraq¹

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Weekly Report 39 — May 5, 2015

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Executive Summary

During the reporting period, reported cultural heritage damage in Syria remained at an elevated level. Urban warfare represented the leading cause of reported damage with epicenters in Aleppo and Daraa. The level of reported cultural heritage damage in northern Iraq decreased markedly relative to levels documented for March and April when ISIL inflicted severe damage to several heritage sites as part of a campaign of performative intentional destructions.

The media continues to focus attention on the looting, trafficking, and sale of conflict antiquities from Syria and northern Iraq. Recent reports investigate the role of ISIL and other Islamist extremist groups in promoting and controlling these activities and taxing them.

We have included eight incident reports on ISIL deliberate destructions of heritage places in northern Iraq in this report that occurred prior to the program's inception.

Heritage Timeline

May 6, 2015

On May 6, 2015, **United Nations University** and **UNESCO** will host a meeting in Paris titled “**Mobilization for Heritage: Iraq, Syria, and other Conflict-Stricken Countries.**” The meeting will bring together Iraqi officials, writers, poets, intellectuals, and archaeologists to discuss how to mitigate forces that are destroying the world's heritage.

<https://en.unesco.org/events/mobilization-heritage-iraq-syria-and-other-conflict-stricken-countries>

May 4, 2015

France 24 posted a news report titled “**Syria: On the trail of looted antiquities.**” Drawing on interviews with a looter/smuggler, an antiquities trafficker, and a rebel activist, the report examines the networks through which antiquities looted in Syria are making their way to collectors around the world. The report also includes discussion of ISIL's role in antiquities trafficking and the international response to the crisis.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20150501-reporters-syrian-antiquities-trafficking-turkey-smuggling>

¹ This report is based on research conducted by the “Syria Preservation Initiative: Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria.” Weekly reports reflect reporting from a variety of sources and may contain unverified material. As such, they should be treated as preliminary and subject to change.

May 2, 2015

Press TV published an article titled “**Mesopotamia: Vanishing cultural heritage**” (by Jane Calvary). The article discusses the market in illicit antiquities looted in Iraq and Syria, drawing particular attention to the role played by ISIL and by the British art market.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/05/02/409099/Iraq-ISIL-Syria-antifacts-cultural-heritage-Mesopotamia>

- *Paolo Brusasco* circulated a report titled “**A remark on the Mosul Museum video**” on the Iraqcrisis listserv. Brusasco’s analysis suggests that scenes in the Mosul Museum video feature architectural elements and sculptures from Nimrud, which may indicate that destructive activities at Nimrud began earlier than previously thought.

May 1, 2015

Archaeologik published a blog post titled “**Kulturgut in Syrien und Irak (April 2015)**” (by Rainer Schreg). The post provides a **detailed compilation of links to articles and reports** (most written in English) about the state of cultural property in Iraq and Syria during the month of April 2015.

<http://archaeologik.blogspot.com/2015/05/kulturgut-in-syrien-und-irak-april-2015.html>

- *UT Antiquities Action* launched a **petition** urging Congressman Michael McCaul (U.S. House of Representatives) to vote in favor of **the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (HR 1493)**.
<https://www.change.org/p/michael-mccaul-u-s-house-of-representatives-vote-in-favor-of-hr-1493-the-protect-and-preserve-international-cultural-property-act>
- The **DGAM** posted a series of images and a report on damage to **Roman remains** in the town of **Nawa** (Daraa Governorate, Syria). **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0077**.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1680>
<https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/posts/1018394221526075>
- *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**Museums in Europe and US draw up rescue plans for ravaged sites in Iraq**” (by Julia Halperin and Javier Pes). The article highlights a series of efforts by museums in the US and Europe (British Museum, Louvre, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Penn Museum, Smithsonian, ICCROM, Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, J. Paul Getty Trust) to contribute resources, training, and expertise to colleagues in Syria and Iraq who are working to protect and conserve cultural heritage.
<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/museums/154741/>

April 30, 2015

Cambridge University Press published a blog post titled “**Celebrating Iraq’s Cultural Heritage**” (by Eleanor Robson). In the post, Eleanor Robson (University College London; BISI) urges readers to focus, not on the recent atrocities committed in Iraq by ISIL, but on the living past and ongoing efforts by Iraqis and others to study the history, archaeology, and culture of the country.

<http://blog.journals.cambridge.org/2015/04/celebrating-iraqs-cultural-heritage/>

- The **DGAM** published an **English-language version of their interactive map of archaeological sites damaged by the conflict**.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/damages/eHomepage.php>
<https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/photos/a.570164709682364.1073741828.565705776794924/1018222854876545/?type=1>

April 29, 2015

Fox News published an article titled “**US must help protect world’s cultural heritage in Iraq**” (by Jabbar Jaafar). In the article, Jabbar Jaafar (co-founder of SAFE) argues that the US military’s failure to protect the cultural heritage of Iraq — first in 2003 and more recently during ISIL’s campaign of deliberate heritage destruction — has led many Iraqis to feel that the US cannot be trusted as a long-term ally. He argues that effective action now to protect cultural heritage will promote trust and will help to convince Iraqis that the United States is a friend and strategic ally.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/04/29/usmust-help-protect-world-cultural-heritage-in-iraq/>

- The *Center for Art Law* posted a review (by Irina Tarsis) of the conference titled “**Cultural Property: Current Problems Meet Established Law**,” hosted by the Lawyers Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation (LCCHP) and the Penn Cultural Heritage Center in Philadelphia on March 27, 2015.
<http://itsartlaw.com/2015/04/29/wywh-6th-lcchp-cultural-property-conference/>
- The **DGAM** posted a series of images showing damage to the **Old City of Daraa** (Daraa Governorate, Syria). **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0078**.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1672>
<https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/photos/a.570164709682364.1073741828.565705776794924/1017501624948668/?type=1>
- The **DGAM** posted a series of images and a report summarizing damage to the **Omari Mosque in Daraa** (Daraa Governorate, Syria) over the past four years. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0054 Update**.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1672>

- Reports claimed that the **Armenian Church of 40 Martyrs** in the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo** had been destroyed. Subsequent updates to these reports indicated that, while the compound was severely damaged, the church itself was not. [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0076](#).
<http://armenianweekly.com/2015/04/29/forty-martyrs-destroyed/>
 - *Hyperallergic* published a blog post titled “**Syrian President Seeks Investors to Rebuild Aleppo’s Bombed-Out Old City**” (by Laura C. Mallonee). Citing a recent article published by *Die Welt*, the post draws attention to recent suggestions that the Assad government may be deliberately creating a situation in which it will derive a significant economic benefit from the post-war reconstruction process, at the expense of private citizens and the cultural heritage of cities like Aleppo.
<http://hyperallergic.com/202582/syrian-president-seeks-investors-to-rebuild-aleppos-bombed-out-old-city/>
 - The *Texas Standard* posted an interview with Stephennie Mulder (Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture, University of Texas at Austin), titled “**ISIS isn’t randomly destroying art, it is another form of terrorism.**” In the interview, Professor Mulder discusses the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq, with a particular focus on ISIL's campaign of "heritage terror." She also draws attention to the groups of "Monuments Men" who are working remotely and on-the-ground in Syria to protect and preserve cultural heritage.
<http://www.texasstandard.org/shows/current/isis-isnt-randomly-destroying-art-its-another-form-of-terrorism/>
- April 28, 2015
- NRT* published an article titled “**Artifacts destroyed by Islamic State were not fakes, says Iraqi museum official**” (by Delawit Mesfin). Reporting on the first annual Iraqi Cultural Heritage Conference, held at the American University of Iraq – Sulaimani on April 26, the article highlights comments by Ahmad Kamel Mohammed (Director of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad) about the objects destroyed at the Mosul Museum and also discusses the looting and selling of museum artifacts on the international antiquities market.
<http://nrttv.com/EN/Details.aspx?jimare=2591>
- April 24, 2015
- The **DGAM** posted a series of images showing damage to the **Omari Mosque in Sheikh Miskin** (Daraa Governorate, Syria). [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0076](#).
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1664>
<https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/posts/1014867121878785>

Military and Political Context

The main theaters of military operations during the reporting period in Syria were:

1. Latakia Governorate
 - During the reporting period, clashes took place between Islamist rebels and Syrian government forces.²
2. Bir Mahli, Aleppo Governorate
 - On May 1, reports claim that coalition airstrikes accidentally killed 52 civilians in the village of Bir Mahli; the U.S. military is investigating the incident.³
3. Hasakah Area, Hasakah Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Hasakah.⁴
4. Kobani Area, Aleppo Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Kobani.⁵

The main theaters of military operations during the reporting period in Iraq were:

1. Baghdad
 - During the reporting period, bombs in Baghdad killed dozens of civilians and injured dozens more.⁶
2. Ramadi Area, Al Anbar Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Ramadi.⁷
3. Fallujah Area, Al Anbar Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Fallujah.⁸
4. Baiji Area, Salah ad Din Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Baiji.⁹

² <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/01/us-mideast-crisis-latakia-idUSKBN0NM2WQ20150501>; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/05/the-helicopters-and-aircrafts-attack-areas-in-idlib-and-the-clashes-renew-in-latakia-2/>

³ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/03/world/middleeast/strikes-on-syria-tied-to-deaths-of-52-civilians.html>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32563662>;

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-claim-syria-airstrike-killing-civilians/>

⁴ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

⁵ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

⁶ AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/03/world/middleeast/ap-ml-islamic-state.html>; AP, <http://news.yahoo.com/iraq-suicide-attack-west-baghdad-kills-least-6-101125329.html>; <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/05/01/Five-car-bombs-kill-at-least-21-people-in-Baghdad.html>; AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/01/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/30/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-violence-idUSKBN0NL2LS20150430>;

AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/30/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>

⁷ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

⁸ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

⁹ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

5. Mosul Area, Ninawa Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Mosul.¹⁰
6. Tel Afar Area, Ninawa Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Tel Afar.¹¹
7. Hawija Area, Kirkuk Governorate
 - During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Hawija.¹²

Other key points:

- While Baghdad experienced a significant number of bombs, and more coalition airstrikes than usual hit ISIL targets during the reporting period, there were fewer reports of fighting on the ground than usual elsewhere throughout the country.

¹⁰ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

¹¹ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

¹² http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 15-0054 UPDATE

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Omari Mosque, Daraa (SHI# 676)

Date of Incident: Ongoing destruction; most recent incident March 18, 2015

Location: Old city center (Daraa al-Balad), Daraa, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: The Omari Mosque is located in the old city center of Daraa, across a narrow street from the remains of the Roman amphitheater. The minaret (located on the northwest corner) and part of the mosque date to the 8th century CE, but the complex has since been enlarged and modified.

Site Date: 8th century CE and later

Source of Destruction: On March 22, 2013, APSA posted photos and video showing the condition of the Omari Mosque after sieges and months of combat within the city of Daraa. This included damage to the minaret and galleries, as well as holes in the walls and roof.

On April 12, 2013, APSA published footage that appears to show the prolonged bombardment of the minaret of the Omari Mosque.¹³

On April 13, 2013, APSA published footage taken from the roadway south of the mosque, showing the destroyed minaret (see images below).¹⁴

On April 14, 2013, news sources reported that the minaret of the Omari Mosque had been destroyed. According to these same sources, the Syrian National Council blamed the Assad regime for the attack and destruction, stating “This regime of unrestrained barbarism targeted with tanks the minaret of the Omari mosque, a place full of symbols of civilisation and spirituality and humanity...The minaret of this mosque, which was build [sic] by Caliph Omar bin al-Khattab, is the first in the whole of the Levant, and has been destroyed by the soldiers of the tyrant.”¹⁵

On June 15, 2013, APSA reported illicit digging inside the Omari Mosque, publishing an image of a pit which had been dug in a section of floor already damaged by bombardment (see images below).¹⁶

On March 18, 2015, APSA posted a video showing the bombardment of the Omari Mosque.¹⁷

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgSHCe-p0y0&t=16>

¹⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuZhbwIQvLU>

¹⁵ <http://www.albawaba.com/news/omari-mosque-syria--484375>

¹⁶ <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/daraa/monuments/603-deraa-illicit-diggings-inside-the-mosque-al-omari-15-06-2013.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP7xgsUvUQU>

On April 29, 2015, the DGAM posted a set of photos, providing updated information on the condition of the Omari Mosque. The report claimed to summarize the damage to the mosque from “the past four years” and included mortar damage causing the collapse to the minaret, minor damage to the southern wall of the mosque and to the roof to the left of the mihrab, and minor damage to the southwestern side of the building. The report also listed damage to the building’s northern facade and claimed that illegal excavations were spreading within the mosque courtyard and in the haram.¹⁸

Pattern: From the beginning of the civil war until its destruction in 2013, the Omari mosque was a gathering place for protesters and a center of anti-government demonstrations in Daraa. At the start of the uprising, it was briefly used as a civilian hospital for wounded protesters. In March 2011, protesters gathered at the Omari mosque to protest the arrest and alleged torture of teenagers accused of spraying anti-Assad graffiti.¹⁹ This protest was the largest of the broader wave of protests ongoing across Syria at that time. In a series of violent clashes between March 23 and April 22, 2011, regime and affiliated buildings were burned, and protesters and soldiers were killed, leading to a sustained siege of the city²⁰ by the Fourth Armored division of the Syrian Army.²¹

As a stronghold of rebel activity and sentiment through the civil war, Daraa has continued to be a target for regime bombardment. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported barrel bombing of parts of Daraa, including Daraa al-Balad, on March 18, 2015 – coinciding with the destruction of the Omari Mosque reported on March 23, 2015.²² Continuing combat and ongoing clashes between regime and rebel forces in the Daraa region have continued to impact Daraa city; for example, SOHR reported an incident of barrel bombing on April 20, 2015.²³

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor sites of extreme heritage significance, such as the Omari mosque, which have been targeted during the Syrian conflict.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1672>

APSA:

March 18, 2015: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP7xgsUvUQU>

June 15, 2013: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/daraa/monuments/603-deraa-illicit-diggings-inside-the-mosque-al-omari-15-06-2013.html>

April 13, 2013: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuZhbWlQvLU>

April 12, 2013: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgSHCe-p0y0&t=16>

March 22, 2013: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmWgNjrc2aQ>

¹⁸ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1672>

¹⁹ <http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/13/world/meast/syria-civil-war/>

²⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Daraa#cite_note-LA30-4-11-10

²¹ <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/30/world/la-fg-syria-protests-20110430>

²² <http://syriahr.com/en/2015/03/the-helicopters-drop-barrel-bombs-on-the-countryside-of-daraa-and-the-regime-troops-shell-areas-in-rif-dimashq/>

²³ <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/04/a-woman-and-her-children-killed-in-daraa-and-the-governemnt-troops-kill-a-woman-in-al-suwaydaa/>



Omari Mosque from the southwest, Daraa, Syria (Panoramio; dated 3/15/2011). Note the differential masonry of arcade, minaret base, and minaret tower.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (APSA, Facebook page; posted March 22 2013). Images showing the condition of the courtyard and minaret due to prolonged siege and combat damage.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (APSA; posted April 12–13, 2013). This is a still image taken from footage filmed from the street south of the mosque, facing approximately the same direction as the first photograph above. Note the arcade, minaret base, and minaret tower, now truncated.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (APSA; posted April 13, 2013). Images showing the destruction of the minaret. The central images are taken from the street to the north of the mosque.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (APSA, Facebook page; posted June 15, 2013). Image showing apparent looting beneath the floor of the mosque.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (APSA, Facebook page; posted September 22, 2013). Image showing the condition of the minaret and outer walls of the mosque.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (Still taken video footage posted by APSA on March 18, 2015). The image shows the Omari mosque from the south and shows that the minaret has been further destroyed by a successive bombardment, perhaps a barrel bomb.



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria, showing damage to the minaret (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria, showing damage to the facade (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria, showing damage to the south facade (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria, showing damage to the minaret (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria, showing digging inside the eastern door (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Daraa, Syria, showing damage to the roof to the left of the mihrab (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)

SHI 15-0076

Report Date: April 30, 2015

Site Name: The Armenian Church of Forty Martyrs (Srbots Qarasnits Mankants Mayr Yekeghetsin; SHI# 52), Aleppo

Date of Incident: April 26, 2015

Location: Jdeideh quarter, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: The current church building was constructed in 1491 AD and renovated in 1499–1500. Subsequent renovations include major works by Khoja Bedig Chelebi and Khoja Sanos Chelebi beginning in 1616. The church was surrounded by an extensive cemetery, originally containing the graves of the Armenian residents of Jdeideh. A guesthouse was added in 1624 to accommodate Armenian pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem, and the bell tower was constructed in 1912. The church of the Forty Martyrs is the seat of the Armenian Diocese of Beroea, which covers the provinces of Aleppo, Idlib, Raqqa, Lattakia, and Deir ez-Zor. The architectural complex of the church contains an Armenian school and the Church of the Holy Mother of God (Sourb Astvatsatsin), said to date back prior to 1429 – this church is now a museum.

Site Date: 15th century AD

Source of Destruction: On April 29, 2015, online news sources indicated that the Armenian Cathedral of the Forty Martyrs had been destroyed, though the attribution of the damage was still ambiguous, with some reports linking the destruction of the church to tunnel bombings and others blaming aerial bombardment. All of the news sources published the same image of the destroyed church (see below); this image was also published by the DGAM on April 29, 2015. It seemed possible that the church was destroyed as a result of the tunnel bombings reported in the Jdeideh quarter on April 26, 2015 (see ASOR CHI Weekly Report 38, Incident Report SHI 15-0073). Subsequent updates to the original reports corrected the information, reporting that while the compound of the Forty Martyrs Church had been severely damaged, the church itself “escaped major harm.”

Pattern: Destruction of built heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, related to urban warfare and the ongoing use of tunnel bombing and aerial bombardment against sections of the city. The Jdeideh quarter has been and continues to be a front line in clashes between regime and rebel battalions fighting for control of Aleppo. The destruction of the Forty Martyrs Cathedral during the week dedicated to the worldwide commemoration of the centennial of the genocide of the Ottoman Armenians has raised alarm in the community; rumors are currently circulating online connecting the destruction of Forty Martyrs Church to ISIL action.²⁴ ISIL has claimed responsibility for the destruction of Armenian heritage in Syria in the past, for example, the Armenian Genocide Memorial Church in Deir ez-Zor city which was destroyed on September 21, 2014. However, the data so far available indicate that the immediate cause of the damage to the

²⁴ <http://asbarez.com/134596/forty-martyrs-armenian-church-in-aleppo-destroyed/>

church compound was tunnel bombs, most likely targeting regime-occupied buildings nearby in Jdeideh.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI has already assigned high priority to the monitoring of built heritage within the historic quarters of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Armenian Weekly, Updated Report:

<http://armenianweekly.com/2015/04/29/forty-martyrs-destroyed/>

Massis Post: <http://massispost.com/2015/04/forty-martyrs-church-of-aleppo-destroyed/>

Asbarez: <http://asbarez.com/134596/forty-martyrs-armenian-church-in-aleppo-destroyed/>

Syria Photo Guide:

<http://www.syriaphotoguide.com/home/aleppo-armenian-orthodox-church-forty-martyrs>

SOHR (May 2, 2015):

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/05/4-members-of-the-regime-troops-killed-in-tal-brak-while-shell-land-on-the-regime-held-neighborhoods-in-aleppo/>

Scholarly:



Vicinity of the Armenian Church of the 40 Martyrs (generated by iNews; published by various online sources on April 29, 2015)

SHI 15-0077

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Omari Mosque

Date of Incident: Unknown; reported April 24, 2015

Location: Sheikh Miskin (SHI# 2631), Daraa Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Mamluk (13th century CE) mosque located on one of the old squares in Sheikh Miskin. The mosque has an octagonal minaret. The building was endowed by Sheikh Izz al-Shojae in 670 AH/1271 CE and renovated in 1897 and 1958 CE.

Site Date: Mamluk–Ottoman

Source of Destruction: Sheikh Miskin has been the site of ongoing clashes between rebel and regime forces, with a major conflict occurring in the city in November 2014.

Pattern: Ongoing damage to the built landscape in Daraa Governorate in the course of town-to-town fighting.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the localized effects of ongoing conflict at heritage sites in Daraa Governorate.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1664>

DGAM, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/posts/1014867121878785>

Recent renewed clashes between regime and rebel/Islamist battalions in Sheikh Miskin: <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/03/the-warplanes-attack-villages-and-towns-around-the-airbase-of-abo-al-dohur-and-clashes-erupt-in-al-sheikh-meskin-in-daraa/>

Recent aerial bombardments of Sheikh Miskin: <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/04/the-clashes-continue-in-al-yarmouk-camp-and-the-helicopters-drop-5-explosive-barrels-on-al-sheikh-meskin-in-daraa/>

Clash in Sheikh Miskin (Nov. 2014): <http://www.almasdarnews.com/article/bloody-clashes-sheikh-miskeen-lead-high-casualties/>

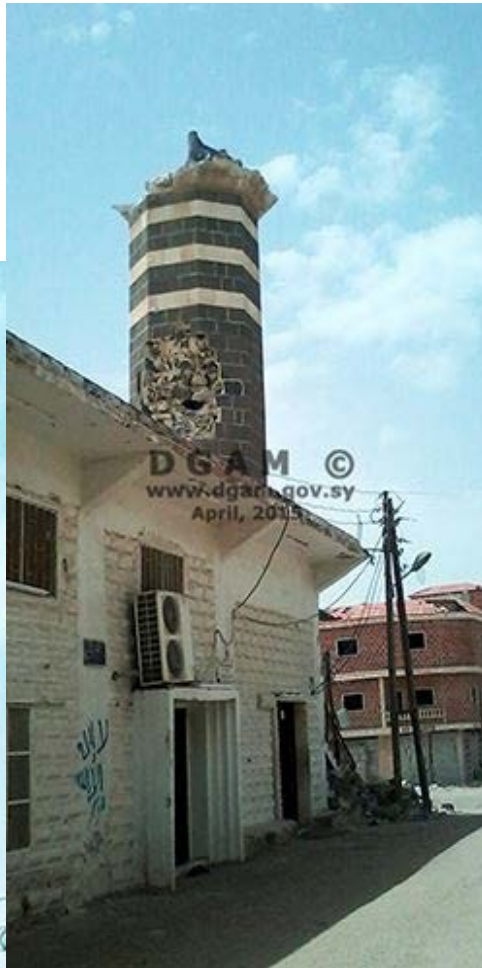
Scholarly:



Omari Mosque, Sheikh Miskin (DGAM; posted to social media April 24, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Sheikh Miskin (DGAM; posted to social media April 24, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Sheikh Miskin (DGAM; posted to social media April 24, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Sheikh Miskin (DGAM; posted to social media April 24, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Sheikh Miskin (DGAM; posted to social media April 24, 2015)



Omari Mosque, Sheikh Miskin, prior to destruction (Panoramio)

SHI 15-0078

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Daraa Old City (Daraa al-Balad) (SHI# 676)

Date of Incident: Unknown; ongoing

Location: west of the Omari Mosque, Daraa, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Area of Roman and Islamic-period city remains in the center of the historical town of Daraa, directly across from the Omari Mosque.

Site Date: Roman, Abbasid, and later

Source of Destruction: On April 29, 2015, the DGAM published a series of images showing damage to the standing ruins from combat/bombardment, as well as evidence of looting or other digging within the site, specifically within the “castle and the passage leading to the theater.” This damage is attributed generally to the “last four years” of conflict impacting Daraa.

Pattern: Damage to the archaeological heritage landscape in Daraa Governorate due to recent clashes between regime and rebel forces, as well as prolonged bombardment and the militarized condition of the area around the Omari Mosque in Daraa (see ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0054).

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is actively monitoring the condition of the heritage landscape in Daraa and Daraa Governorate more generally.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1672>

DGAM, Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/photos/a.570164709682364.1073741828.565705776794924/1017501624948668/?type=1>

Scholarly:



Daraa al-Balad (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Daraa al-Balad (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)



Daraa al-Balad, digging inside the castle (DGAM; posted April 29, 2015)

SHI 15-0079

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Roman remains in Nawa (Neue/Neve; SHI #2616)

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: Nawa, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Architectural remains of the Roman town of Neve, located in the center of the contemporary town of Nawa and visible in satellite imagery as a rectangular (Roman) town plan within the radial layout of the city.

Site Date: Roman–Abbasid

Source of Destruction: On May 1, 2015, the DGAM posted images to their website and to social media showing generalized destruction (damage to walls, collapse of masonry) within the town of Nawa. According to the attached report, the Roman structures had been destroyed using heavy machinery in order to construct new buildings, as well as to clear routes of travel and access through the site. The specific structures listed as impacted by the DGAM include: the al-Amarin house, the al-Batha house, the Abo-Kharub house, the al-Koubi house, and the al-Khraiba house. The report also attributes destruction at the al-Batha house and the al-Jehmani house to the recent fighting in Nawa and mentions that “carved architectural arts” of ancient buildings were damaged, perhaps referring to the preserved barrel vault of the al-Khoubi house. Nawa has been the site of heavy fighting and bombardment since late 2014.

Pattern: Serious impacts to the built heritage landscape resulting from town-to-town combat in Daraa Governorate.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the localized effects of the conflict on heritage sites in Daraa Governorate.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1680>

DGAM, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dgam.syria/posts/1018394221526075>

Scholarly:

Vailhé, S. (1911). Neve. In *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company. Retrieved May 4, 2015 from New Advent: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10777a.htm>



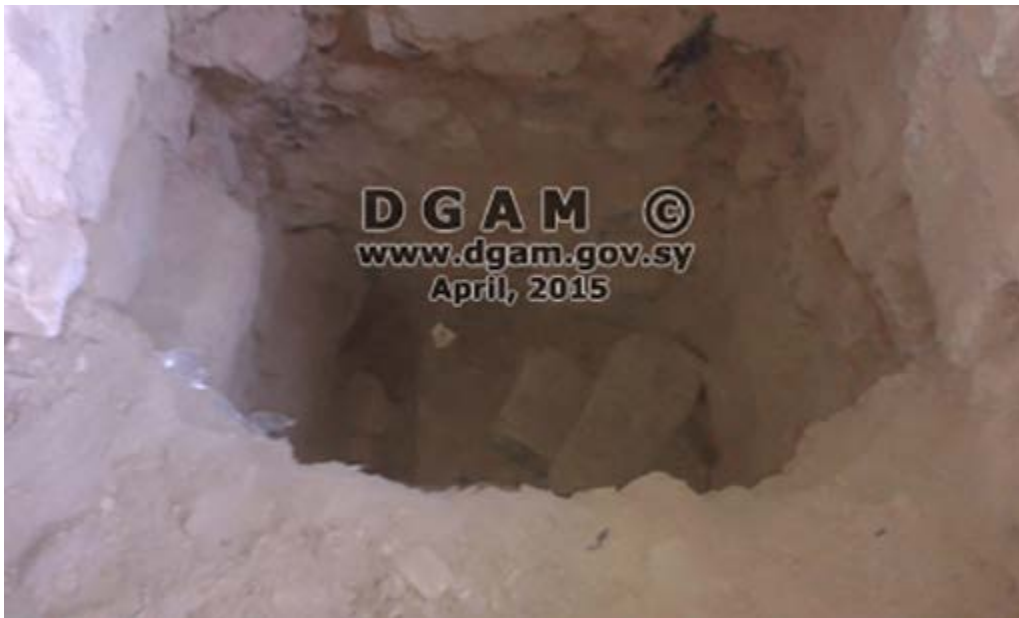
al-Amarin house, Nawa (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)



Nawa, showing destruction (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)



al-Khraiba house, Nawa, illegal excavation (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)



al-Koubi house, Nawa, illegal excavation (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)



al-Jehmani house, Nawa, combat damage (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)



al-Batha house, Nawa, combat damage (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)



al-Khoubi house, Nawa, combat damage (DGAM; posted May 1, 2015)

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 15-0024

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Shrine of Sheikh Fathi

Date of Incident: June 24, 2014

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Burial place of the saint Fathi al-Ka'en located in the al-Mushahada neighborhood of Mosul.

Site Date: 1760 CE

Source of Destruction: Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.

Pattern: Overnight between late June 24 and early June 25, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the site, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The building was demolished with construction vehicles, and photos of the destruction were produced and distributed on social media. Allegedly, ISIL militants had attempted to demolish the site the previous week but were stopped by local community members.²⁵ This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul during late June and July 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Wasit: <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/mobile/article?articleid=25855>

Al Shofra:

http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2014/06/25/newsbrief-01

Niqash: <http://www.niqash.org/articles/?id=3479>

Times of India:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Middle-East/In-Iraq-Islamic-State-jihadists-destroy-ancient-mosques-shrines/articleshow/37852766.cms>

²⁵ http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2014/06/25/newsbrief-01

The Hindu: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/isis-insurgents-wage-war-on-history/article6158435.ece>

Scholarly:



Image captioned "The destruction of the tomb and shrine of Sheikh Fathi in Mosul" (shared on social media)



Image captioned "The destruction of the tomb and shrine of Sheikh Fathi in Mosul" (shared on social media)

IHI 15-0025

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din

Date of Incident: July 25, 2015

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description:

According to ArchNet:

The mausoleum is located in a residential neighborhood of Mosul, in a cemetery surrounded by houses. It was built in 1248 by the Atabeg of Mosul Badr el-Din Lu'lu to house the tomb of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, in reference to the Imam, grandson of Ali. The structure underwent several restorations the first of which took place in 1744, followed by another in 1776. During the last restoration works in 1964, the exterior was covered with plaster hiding the external decorations. Nowadays the structure is in ruins in the middle of a cemetery. The structure is 30 meters high making it the tallest mausoleum in Iraq.

The mausoleum is built with stone, marble, rubble and brick. The very low part of the square structure is built of regular ashlar stone while the upper part of the four walls is made of rubble stone topped with a one meter brick band; the dome itself is built with bricks.

From the outside the mausoleum is composed of a cube, topped by another recessed square forming the support of the octagonal base of the twelve-sided dome. The relationship between the two inset cubes was articulated in 1964 when the building was covered with plaster. The lower part was apparently covered with a thicker layer of plaster while the upper one holding the brick decoration was covered with a thin layer of white plaster.

On top of the cube, the octagonal base of the multi-ribbed pyramidal dome has tetrahedral projections on four of its sides transforming its footprint on the square structure underneath to a twelve-sided intersection insuring a smoother transition from square to circle. Rectangular windows puncture the four other sides of the octagonal base (the axis points of the four walls of the structure) admitting light to the internal space of the dome. This affects a conical external shape with twelve ribs following the twelve subdivisions of the lower part of the base.

To the eastern side of the mausoleum adjacent to its wall lies an Iwan that communicates with the internal tomb chamber through a rectangular opening in the eastern wall with a carved marble frame. To the northern wall is attached a three bay arched portico sitting on four columns. It leads to the entrance door to the mausoleum. The door (3.5 by 2.1 meters) is framed with several bands of marble carving ranging from interlaced rope motifs to floral and palmette ones belted with a line of inscriptions with the name of Badr el-Din Lu'lu'. The frame has a very shallow arch and a lintel underneath held on small spandrels on the sides minimizing the lintel span. The original door is of carved copper with intricate geometric patterns and the architect's name. This original door was replaced by a new one with minimal decoration, and is displayed in Mosul's museum.

The vertical walls are punctured by two rectangular windows not centered to the walls. They are located at the uppermost part of the lower square structure, lighting the interior space just below the dome decoration starts.

The inside space is accessed by nine steps going down to the tomb chamber. It is composed of a single room of 8.4 by 8.5 by 14 meters under a muquarnas stucco dome (part of which is torn down) sitting on muquarnas squinches and decorated with complex polyhedral shapes related to Iraqi types. Between the muquarnas one can see blue red and dark red mosaic tiles. The dome sits on a twelve-sided muquarnas structure that translates the form from square to circular. Below the twelve-sided muquarnas, on the upper most part of the vertical walls one can see a series of 16 arches, two of which admit light to the internal space. They are four on each wall, highly decorated relating to the twelve sides of the dome base. Below this series of arches runs a frieze with rosette motifs.

The mihrab is located in the southeast corner. Its corner niche sits on two colonettes framed with an extensive decorated frame carved with floral motifs and an inscription band again revealing the name of Badr el-Din Lu'lu and its date of construction 1248. A one meter wide black marble band with inscription and large palmette motifs rises from the floor along the wall. All these panels were made in 1328 by Hajj Hassan. The sarcophagus of the imam is made of wood, carved with floral motifs and holds an inscription to Badr el-Din Lu'lu.

The adjacent iwan houses a private cemetery for Ottoman Pashas and relatives. It is rectangular in shape covered by a barrel vault. It was probably added to the structure at a later period and is now partially torn down. It is accessed from the tomb chamber by a rectangular opening with an intricate marble carved frame. The structure of the opening is a shallow arch with a lintel underneath displaying two stalactite decorations on its lower side and two spandrels on the sides minimizing the lintel span, as is similarly the case for the external gate frame of the mausoleum. The frame also has a band of inscription running on its three sides. The existing external wall stucco (currently ruined at some points) has no sign of decoration as it appears on older photographs or drawings that showing the existence of external decoration above doors, and windows covered by musharrabiyya.²⁶

Site Date: 1248 CE

Source of Destruction: Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.

Pattern: On July 27, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the site, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The building was detonated with improvised explosive devices, and a video of the detonation was produced and distributed on social media via ISIL-affiliated YouTube and Twitter accounts.²⁷ This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul in late July 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

²⁶ <http://archnet.org/sites/3841>

²⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4wgqyoQEFE>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4wgqyoQEFE>

Scholarly:

ArchNet: <http://archnet.org/sites/3841>

Al-Janab T.J. (1982) *Studies in Medieval Iraqi Architecture*. Baghdad: Ministry of Culture and Information, State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage, pp. 214–217.

Hillenbrand, R. (1994) *Islamic Architecture, form function and meaning*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 300–301.

Uluçam, A. (1989) *Irak'taki Türk Mimari Eserleri*. Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı, pp. 137–141.



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din on July 19, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din on July 30, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din on December 22, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, during demolition (YouTube, screenshot)



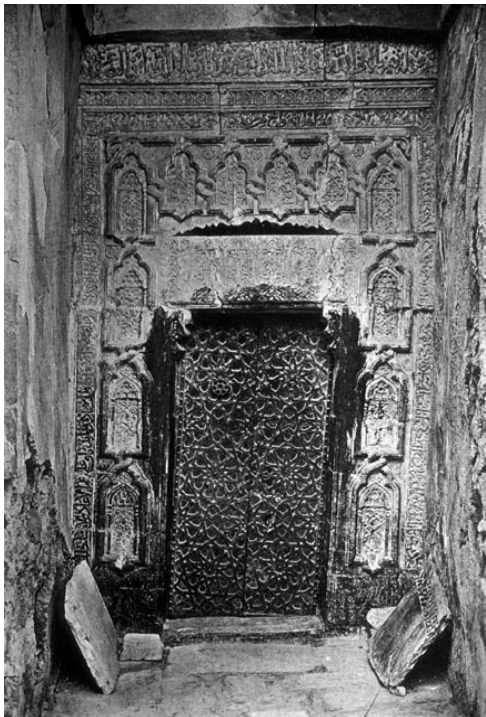
Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, during demolition (YouTube, screenshot)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din and the surrounding cemetery, 1983 (ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, door, 1983 (ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Friedrich Sarre and Ernst Herzfeld; published on ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details, 1983 (ArchNet)



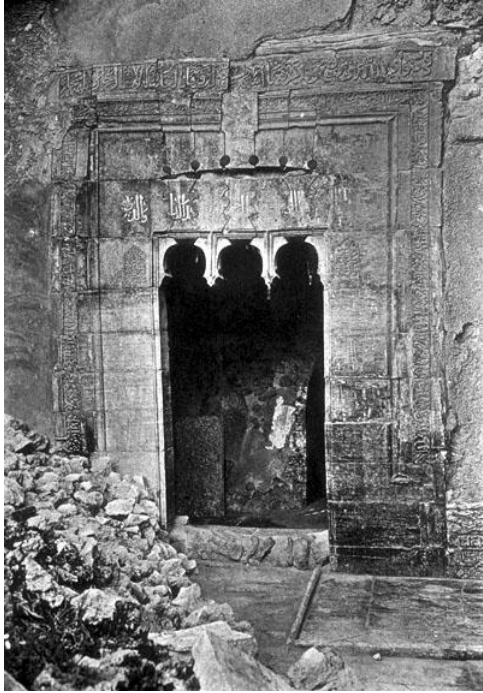
Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details, 1983 (ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details, 1983 (ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Friedrich Sarre and Ernst Herzfeld; published on ArchNet)



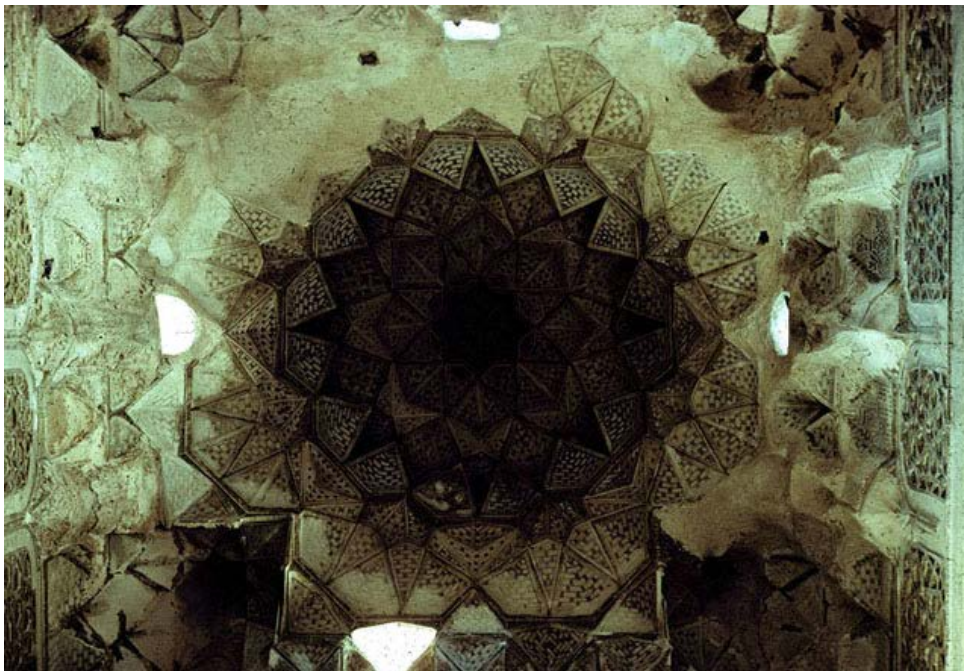
Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Friedrich Sarre and Ernst Herzfeld; published on ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Friedrich Sarre and Ernst Herzfeld; published on ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Friedrich Sarre and Ernst Herzfeld; published on ArchNet)



Mausoleum of Imam Ibn Hassan Awn al-Din, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Yasser Tabbaa; published on ArchNet)

IHI 15-0026

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Qabr al-Bint (also known as Tomb of the Girl)

Date of Incident: July 5, 2015

Location: Ras al-Jada neighborhood, western Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Local legend claims that the tomb was built for a young woman who died of a broken heart. The tomb is actually the burial place of the Arab historian Ali 'Izz al-Din Ibn al-Athir al-Jazari, born in 1160 CE and known for his work *al-Kamil fil'Tarikh*, "The History of the World," which provides an account of the Crusades and the Mongol invasions.

Site Date: The monument itself is a modern construction, and the tombstone is allegedly a replica.²⁸

Source of Destruction: Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.

Pattern: On July 5, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the site, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The building was demolished with construction vehicles, and photos of the destruction were produced and distributed on social media. This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul during July 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Wasit: <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/mobile/article?articleid=25855>

The Hindu: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/isis-insurgents-wage-war-on-history/article6158435.ece>

Niqash: <http://www.niqash.org/articles/?id=3479>

Scholarly:

²⁸ https://twitter.com/Eleanor_Robson/status/480253853120880640



ولاية نينوى | هدم مرقد (قبر البنت) في مدينة الموصل

Image captioned “Destruction of the Tomb of ‘The Girl’ in Mosul” (shared on social media)



ولاية نينوى | هدم مرقد (قبر البنت) في مدينة الموصل

Image captioned “Destruction of the Tomb of ‘The Girl’ in Mosul” (shared on social media)

IHI 15-0028

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex

Date of Incident: July 24, 2014

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: The site is located on the mound south of the Neo-Assyrian capital of Nineveh. The mound includes a palace built by King Esarhaddon (681-669 BCE), renovated by Ashurbanipal (669-627 BCE), and destroyed in 621 BCE when Nineveh was attacked. A Nestorian-Assyrian church was later built on the mound and eventually became associated with the Prophet Jonah. In the late 14th century CE, the site was converted into a mosque and was still considered to be the location of Jonah's tomb, as the prophet is revered in both Christianity and Islam. The mosque was subsequently the subject of a number of restorations, including modern additions. The site was an important pilgrimage destination.

Site Date: The original Christian remains date to approximately the 7th century CE, and the earliest Islamic remains date to the 14th century CE. The contemporary mosque is largely made of modern additions.

Source of Destruction: Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.

Pattern: On July 4, 2014, reports emerged that ISIL operatives had vandalized the grave of the prophet,²⁹ but these reports were not substantiated.³⁰ July 24, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the building containing the tomb, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The site was detonated with improvised explosive devices, and a video of the detonation was produced and distributed on social media via ISIL affiliated YouTube and Twitter accounts.³¹ This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul in late July 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9E_NBWqNFE

²⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeuF-6Qd6GE>; <http://www.iraqinews.com/features/urgent-isil-dug-grave-prophet-younis-mosul/>

³⁰ <https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2014/07/10/syria-iraq-mosul-nineveh-tomb-prophet-jonah-destruction-claim-false/>

³¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9E_NBWqNFE; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SyCGqCtFM>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SyCGqcTtFM>

The Guardian:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/24/isis-militants-blow-up-jonah-tomb>

Iraqi News: <http://www.iraqnews.com/features/urgent-isis-destroys-mosque-biblical-jonah-prophet-yunus/>

CNN:

http://www.cnn.com/2014/07/24/world/iraq-violence/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

RT: <http://rt.com/news/175636-iraq-jonah-tomb-mosul/>

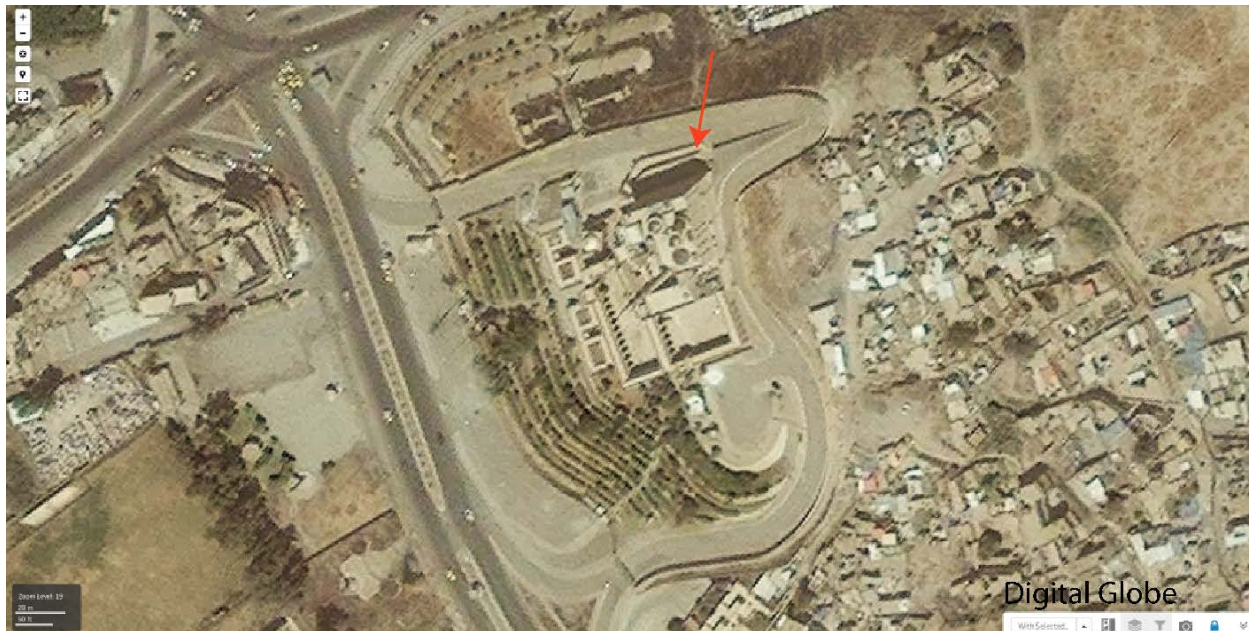
Scholarly:

al-Asil, N. (1954) "Editorial Notes: The Assyrian Palace at Nebi Unis," *Sumer* 10: 110-111.

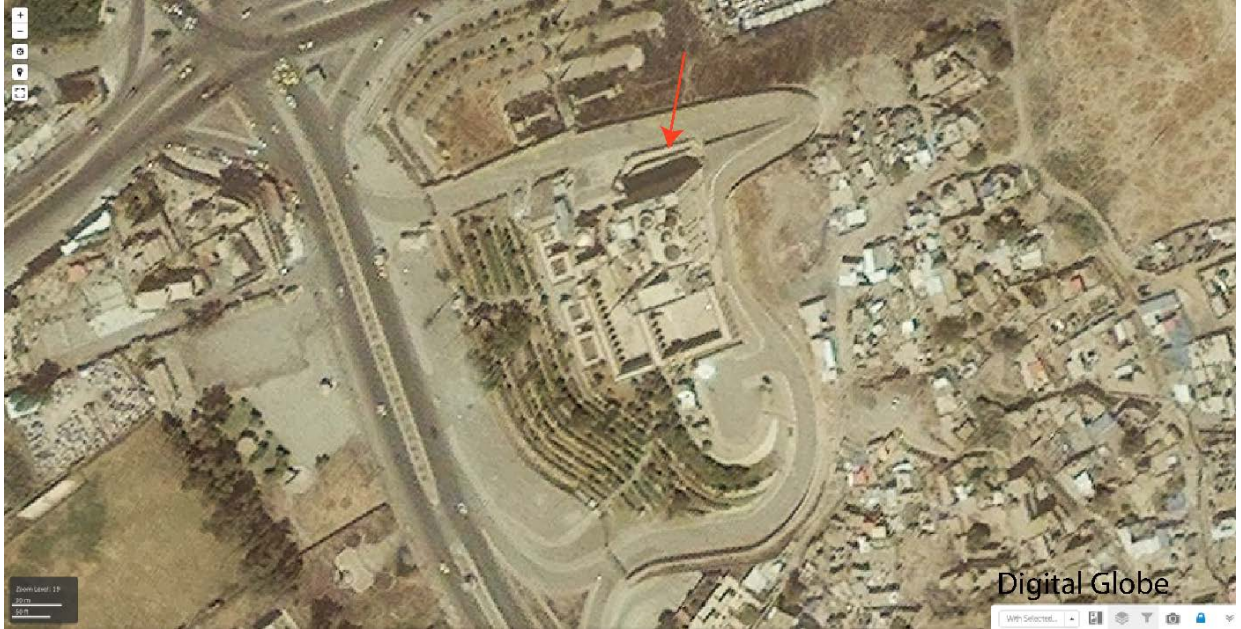
Scott, M. Louise and J.McGinnis (1990) "Notes on Nineveh," *Iraq* 52: 64-67.

Turner, George (1970), "Tell Nebi Yunūs: The Ekal Māšarti of Nineveh," *Iraq* 32.1: 68-72.

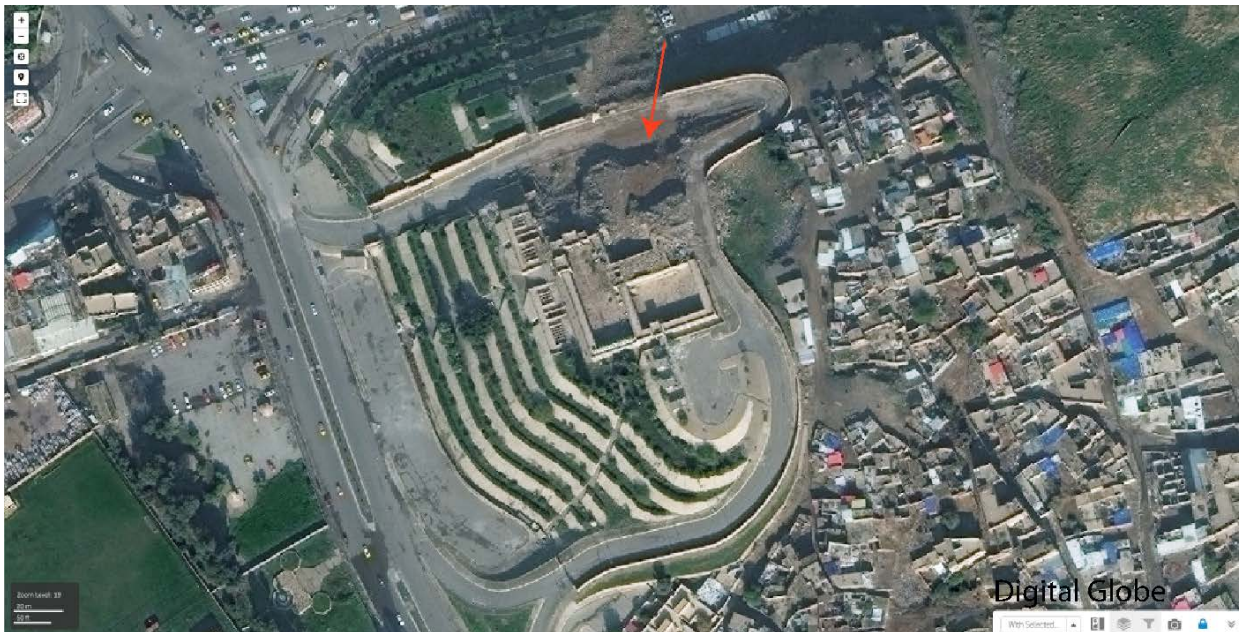
Walker, J. (2011) "Nineveh," In *Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage*. Gorgias Press, pp. 309-310.



Nebi Yunus Mosque on July 17, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Nebi Yunus Mosque on July 30, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Nebi Yunus Mosque on November 24, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Nebi Yunus Mosque on December 22, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (DigitalGlobe)



Shrine of Nebi Yunus prior to destruction (WikiCommons)



Shrine of Nebi Yunus prior to destruction (Iraqi News)



Shrine of Nebi Yunus following demolition (Reuters)



Shrine of Nebi Yunus following demolition (Reuters)



Shrine of Nebi Yunus following demolition (Associated Press)



Shrine of Nebi Yunus following demolition (Associated Press)

IHI 15-0029

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Tomb of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim

Date of Incident: confirmed August 14, 2014

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description:

From ArchNet:

Mashhad Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, was built in 1239 by Badr al-Din Lu'lu', the ruler of Mosul who supported the Shi'i belief. The Mausoleum is located on the Tigris riverbank, in the vicinity of the citadel. It was built with baked bricks and has a square plan, topped by a pyramidal roof raised on an octagonal drum, with an inner muquarnas dome.

The tomb is entered from the north. The east façade is covered by two heavy buttresses that prevent the structure from falling into the Tigris River. The main entrance is topped by a tall arch and flanked by two decorative niches. These niches contain turquoise bricks forming interlocking stars and octagons, and have kufic inscriptive panels below the crowning arch. There are similar niches on the west and south facades, placed on either side of a window.

The interior walls are richly decorated with several brick geometric panels. A marble band, carved with flowers and leaves in high relief, wraps around the interior walls at eye level, with a ceramic inscription band on top. This elaborate carving contrasts with the flat terracotta panels located on the plain brick walls above. There is another inscriptive band below the dome muqarnas, which is derived from cross-shaped plan. The mihrab is situated at the southwest corner of the tomb because the building is not oriented towards Mecca.³²

Site Date:

Source of Destruction: Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.

Pattern: On July 27, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the site, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The building was detonated with improvised explosive devices, and a video of the detonation was produced and distributed on social media via ISIL affiliated YouTube and Twitter accounts. This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul in late July 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

³² <http://archnet.org/sites/4356>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Monuments of Mosul in Danger (Facebook):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/858813217464395/permalink/862966173715766/>

Scholarly:

ArchNet: <http://archnet.org/sites/4356>

Bosworth, C.E. (1996) *The New Islamic Dynasties*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 190-191.



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim on July 17, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim on July 19, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim on July 30, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



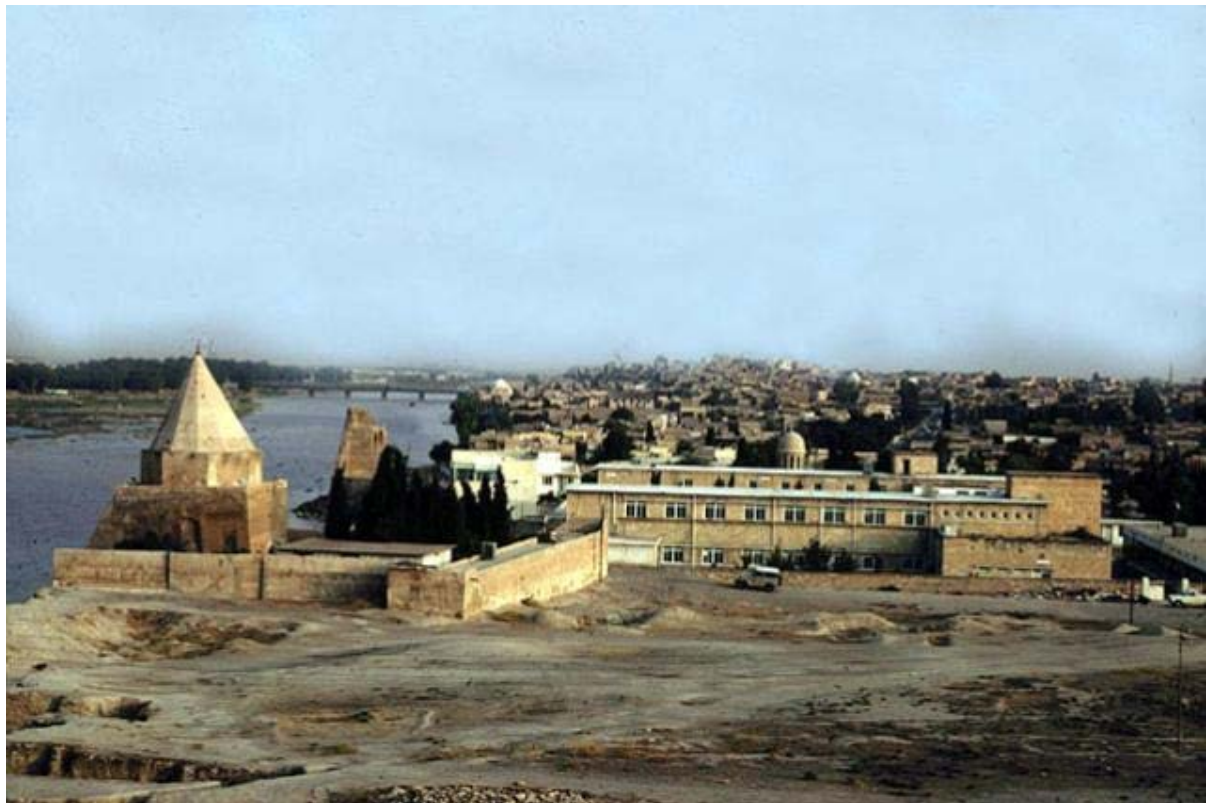
Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim on December 22, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Demolition of the Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim (posted to the “Monuments of Mosul in Danger” Facebook page)



Demolition of the Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim (posted to the “Monuments of Mosul in Danger” Facebook page).



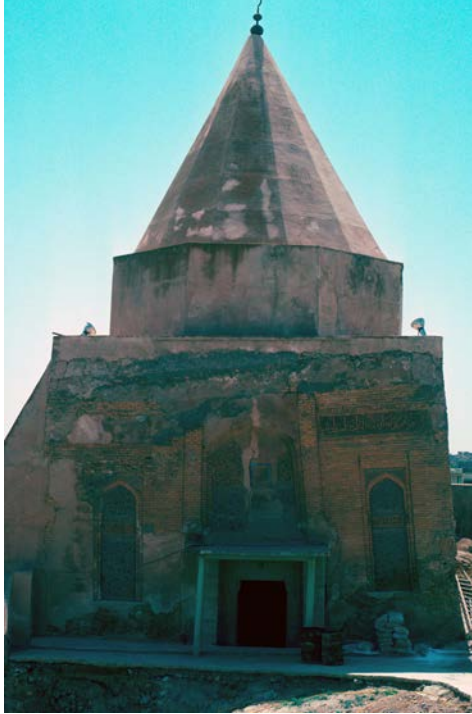
Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim (undated photo by Yasser Tabbaa; published on ArchNet)



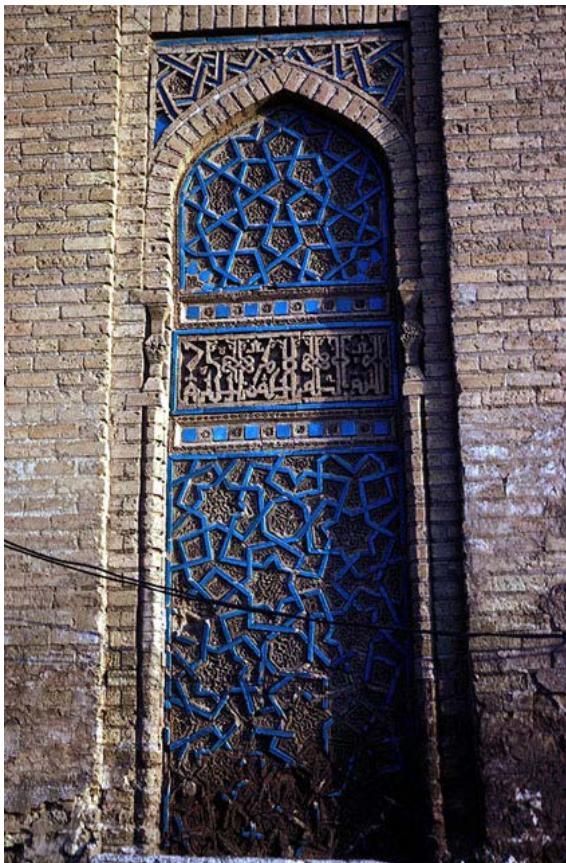
Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim (undated photo by Yasser Tabbaa; published on ArchNet)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim (ArchNet)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, 1983 (ArchNet)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Yasser Tabbaa; published on ArchNet)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Yasser Tabbaa; published on ArchNet)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, decorative architectural details (ArchNet; undated)



Shrine of Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, decorative architectural details (undated photo by Yasser Tabbaa; published on ArchNet)

IHI 15-0030**Report Date:** May 4, 2015**Site Name:** Nebi Seeth Mosque**Date of Incident:** July 25, 2014**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq**Coordinates:****Site Description:** Shrine of Prophet Seth (Nebi Seeth), considered to be the common ancestor for all of humanity and revered in Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.**Site Date:** ca. 1647 CE**Source of Destruction:** Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.**Pattern:** July 25, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the site, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The building was detonated with improvised explosive devices, and a video of the detonation was produced and distributed on social media via ISIL affiliated YouTube and Twitter accounts.³³ This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul in late July 2014.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.**Sources:**Online Reporting:Iraqi Media Network footage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gnxyZMd_nc

AhlulBayt News Agency (ABNA):

<http://www.abna24.com/arabic/service/iraq/archive/2014/07/26/626791/story.html>Al Arabiya: <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/26/ISIS-destroy-Prophet-Sheth-shrine-in-Mosul-.html>

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gnxyZMd_nc

Video prior to destruction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJIRQb1b8WY>

³³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gnxyZMd_nc



Nebi Seeth Mosque on July 19, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Nebi Seeth Mosque on July 30, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Nebi Seeth Mosque on December 22, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



AhlulBayt News Agency

Nebi Seeth Mosque before and after destruction (AhlulBayt News Agency)

IHI 15-0031**Report Date:** May 4, 2015**Site Name:** Al-Nebi Jarjis Shrine**Date of Incident:** July 27, 2014**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq**Coordinates:****Site Description:** Complex built over the Quraysh cemetery which includes a shrine to the 1st century CE martyr Jarjis, the Arabic version of George. From ArchNet:

This still standing Timurid complex, dating to 1393, includes a small shrine dedicated to Nabi Jerjis (the saint/prophet George) built in the Quraysh cemetery in Mosul. Timur, leader of the Timurid Empire, commissioned for this site a mosque and a dome built above the sarcophagus. He also created several endowments or waqfs to sustain the complex.

The tomb chamber is a small square measuring 4.7 on each side, topped with a dome with ribs visible from the outside. Interior surfaces are severely damaged. Its walls are covered with green and yellow glazed brick tiles to the height of two meters and are surmounted by a Quranic inscription band. Adjacent to it, and probably from the same period, is another room measuring 4.17 by 4.46 meters with a central column to support the roof.

South of the tomb chamber lies the mosque built by Timur in 1393 that is recognizable from the outside for its high circular dome. It abides by a square plan and houses the minbar and the main mihrab that were transplanted from the tomb chamber at the time of construction. It is decorated with triangular geometric patterns similar to muqarnas and has two columns on its sides supporting a circular arch.

The second addition to the shrine is a prayer hall for the Sunni Hanafi rite. It is square in plan and is located east of the tomb chamber. Its plan is divided in nine equal bays supported by four central marble columns with decorated capitals. Later in 1735, another prayer hall was added to the north of the tomb chamber for the Sunni Shafi'i rite. It is rectangular in plan with elongated proportions. It is composed of five bays supported on pointed arches.

The minaret was built in 1853 to replace an older one. It is made of stone and has a muqarnas balcony topped by a pointed spire in the Turkish style.

In 1910, after a major earthquake, the Timurid dome collapsed and was re-built with stone following Mosul building techniques. It is decorated with arabesque motifs executed in green glazed brick tiles.³⁴

Site Date: 14th century CE**Source of Destruction:** Intentional, performative destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL.

³⁴ <http://archnet.org/sites/3846>

Pattern: On July 27, 2014, ISIL militants destroyed the site, claiming the sanctuary to be a site of idolatrous worship. The building was detonated with improvised explosive devices. This incident is one of many intentional destructions perpetrated by ISIL militants in Mosul in late July 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

The Guardian:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/28/islamic-state-destroys-ancient-mosul-mosque>

CBS News: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/islamic-militants-destroy-historic-mosque-in-iraqi-city-of-mosul/>

YouTube video of Nebi Jarjis by Ninawa Waqf prior to destruction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAbxMGSNjzc>

Scholarly:

See ArchNet: <http://archnet.org/sites/3846>

Uluçam, A. (1989) *Irak'taki Türk Mimari Eserleri*. Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı, pp. 66-69.

Yusuf, S. (1982) *Tarikh Fann al-Imarah al-Iraqiyah fi Mukhtalaf al-Usur*. Silsilah al-Fanniyah, Wizarat al-Thaqafah wa-al-Ilam, Iraq, pp. 549-550.



Al-Nebi Jarjis Shrine on July 17, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Al-Nebi Jarjis Shrine on July 17, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Al-Nebi Jarjis Shrine on July 30, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Al-Nebi Jarjis Shrine on December 22, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



Al-Nebi Jarjis Mosque, after destruction (Associated Press)



Al-Nebi Jarjis Mosque, after destruction (Associated Press; published by The Guardian)

IHI 15-054

Report Date: May 4, 2015

Site Name: Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin (also known as the Madrasa al-Nuriya)

Date of Incident: February 7, 2015

Location: Across from the Chaldean Church of Virgin Mary, al-Shifa Quarter, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Built by Nur al-Din (1118-1174 CE), Turkic *atabeg* of Aleppo and Mosul. Became known as Madrasa al-Nuriya during the reign of Badr al-Din Lu'lu'. In 1959 the mosque was enlarged with a new building, and a minaret was added.

Site Date: originally 11th century CE; current structure built in 1959

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: The site was reportedly damaged on December 30, 2014, but the video only emerged in early February 2015. Video shared on social media shows the demolition of the shrine with machinery and the detonation of the nearby cemetery with improvised explosive devices.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority, Shi'a, and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Almada Press:

<http://www.almadapress.com/ar/news/43793/> [بالموصل المرحوم الإمام ضريحه يهدم داعش](#)

BAS News:

<http://basnews.com/ar/news/2015/02/08/> [الموصل غربي آخر دينيها ضريحها يفتجر داعش](#)

El Nashra: <http://www.elnashra.com/news/show/839219/>

Al Sumeria:

<http://www.alsumeria.tv/news/124300/> [الموصل غربي آخر دينيها ضريحها يفتجر داعش](#)

Video of demolition: https://archive.org/details/ezalt_shirk

Video from the Ninawa Waqf:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auEQORZXtf4&list>

Scholarly:

Al-Janabi (1982) *Studies in Mediaeval Iraqi Architecture*, plate 178.



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, prior to destruction (screenshot from video)



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, during detonation (screenshot from video)



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, plaque on outside of mosque, prior to destruction (screenshot from video)



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, plaque on outside of mosque, prior to destruction (screenshot from video)



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, during demolition (screenshot from video)



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, after demolition (Almada Press)



Mosque and Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin, detail