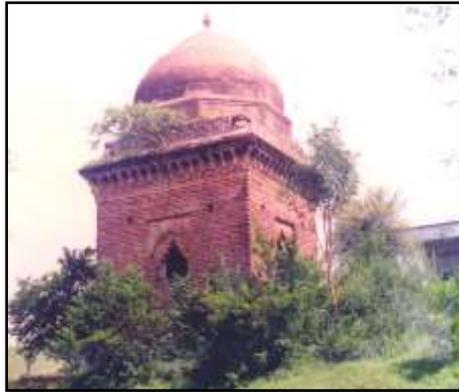


HARDA

(57) TOMB, HARDA



The 18th century tomb lies in the premise of Krishi Upaj Mandi about half km from village Handia. Built on a small platform the stone tomb is very simple and lime and bricks have also been used in it. The stone doorjamb of the tomb has an overhanging *chhajja* in *kangura* shape on all four sides. There is a square circle of bricks in the upper portion of *chhajja*. The dome of the tomb is octagonal in lower portion and oval-shaped in the upper portion. It has arch-shaped decoration. Not much is known about its history.

(58) RIDDHESHWAR MANDIR, HANDIA



The monument lies 21 km from Harda on Hoshangabad-Harda-Indore road on the bank of the Narmada. The east-facing temple is raised on a high platform. The plan consists of *mandapa* and *garbhagriha*. The *mandapa* is an open structure based on eight rectangular pillars. A Nandi and a Shivlinga are enshrined in *garbhagriha*. The two pillars opposite *mandapa* are decorated with Shiva images, floral and leaf patterns on all four sides. The exterior of *garbhagriha* is plain and its walls have no decoration

whatsoever. The roof of the temple is flat but barrel-shaped. The *shikhar* of the temple is of special type. In the centre a large dome is built and 13 mini domes are located around it. Legend has it that the temple was built by Kuber himself. From its architecture it seems to have been built in the 18th century A.D.

(59) TELI KI SARAI, HANDIA



The monument lies about three km from village Handia. Spread over three acre the monument was built in 16-17th century A.D. Local people say that the Sarai or inn was built by a Teli for lodging his customers. However, from its architecture it appears that it might have been used as military barracks as during Mughal period Handia, being located on the rout to village Khedala and Mandu had strategic importance.

The monument has two entrance gates. The first gate is to the north and the other to the south. The first gate is in the shape of a double arch. There are small holes in the wall of upper portion.

The entrance gate is flanked on both sides by a minaret. On both sides there are niches in square shape. A room is built on both sides in the lower and upper stories accessed by a flight of steps beside it. Three bastions each are built on both sides on the left and right side walls of the Sarai. The second entrance gate faces village Heerapur. It is now survived by only an arch. The shape of the gate is similar to that of the first gate. As many as 101 small rectangular chambers are built on all four sides of the monument, some of which are incomplete. A step-well is located in the centre of the monument. The minarets of this gate are now ruined. A flight of steps leads to the upper portion of the gate where a room is located. This state protected monument is a fine but less known example of Mughal architecture.

(60) GRAVE OF MULLA DO PYAZA (PEER KI DARGAH), VILLAGE HANDIA



Village Handia is about 21 km from Harda district headquarters on Hoshangabad-Indore road along with bank of Narmada. There are two graves on a stone platform in the village. One of these graves is known as the graves of Abdullah Hasan Emperor Akbar's minister who was the author of the renowned humorous work mullah Do Pyaza. One of these graves is plain while the other is decorated.