CHW

CAUCASUS HERITAGE WATCH

S2

SPECIAL REPORT #2

Between the Wars:

A Satellite Investigation of the Treatment of Azerbaijani Cultural Heritage in the Unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, 1994-2020

Husik Ghulyan
Lori Khatchadourian
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Caucasus Heritage Watch

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Cornell Institute of Archaeology
and Material Studies
Cornell Univerity
261 McGraw Hall
Ithaca NY 14853
USA

CAUCASUS HERITAGE WATCH

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StoryMap Edition **of this report**
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CAUCASUS HERITAGE WATCH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a year-long forensic investigation, Caucasus Heritage Watch (CHW) used high-resolution satellite imagery and other visual sources to document changes to the condition of Azerbaijani cultural heritage in territories controlled by an ethnic Armenian separatist government after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1991-1994). For nearly three decades, the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (NKR) administered a territory that roughly included the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of Soviet Azerbaijan, as well as the seven surrounding regions of Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jebrayil, Zangelan, Qubatly, Lachin and Kalbajar (Map 1). After decades of unsuccessful negotiations, regular skirmishes, and a 4-day war in 2016, Azerbaijan regained control of the seven territories and the historic city of Shusha (Arm. Shushi) in a bloody 44-day war in 2020. This report concerns the treatment of Azerbaijani cultural heritage in the unsettled decades between the First and Second Nagorno-Karabakh Wars.

To summarize our main finding, CHW's research reveals that the treatment of mosques, mausolea, and historic cemeteries under Armenian control varied widely and changed over time, reflecting the complexities of the disputed region's shifting political, geopolitical, and economic realities. Of the 109 cultural heritage sites we were able to assess for this investigation, 42 (38%) remained structurally unchanged since the late Soviet period, 9 (8%) sustained minor structural damage, 39 (36%) sustained major structural damage, 16 (15%) were destroyed, 2 (2%) were renovated, and 1 (1%) was restored. The adverse impacts on Azerbaijani cultural heritage were significant; the total of heavily damaged (n=31) and destroyed (n=16) sites represents a majority of our dataset (51%). Armenian authorities of NKR failed to prevent both widespread looting and several instances of targeted destruction. At the same time, the forensic evidence we present below shows no attempt to systematically erase the material traces of Azerbaijani history and cultural life in the troubled lands that Armenians controlled from 1994-2020. This report is thus an effort to clearly define what has been lost and what remains.

Although most of the damage and destruction to cultural heritage documented in this report occurred many years ago, and Azerbaijan has since regained control over most of the territories under examination, a full account of the fate of Azerbaijani cultural heritage while under the administration of de facto Armenian authorities is important. A politicized discourse of heritage and its abuses pervades the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Exaggerated reports and unsupported claims of heritage destruction not only inflame the conflict, but they have so obscured the facts on the ground that it is almost impossible to come by an objective accounting of impacts to cultural heritage. Azerbaijani officials have claimed the near total destruction of mosques in the region. The official factoid, frequently recited by President Ilham Aliyev, holds that 65 out of 67 mosques were destroyed. Our investigation shows that this is false. Dismissive Armenian rejoinders (most recently voiced by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan) have placed the blame for all abuses to religious monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh on bygone Soviet authorities. This is also incorrect.

CHW's Special Report #2 provides the first systematic, fully transparent assessment of the condition of Azerbaijani mosques, mausolea, and historic cemeteries that were still extant at the end of the Soviet period using satellite imagery and other visual evidence. We undertook this investigation in order to establish an empirically verifiable record of what did and what did not happen – one that can cut through the veritable "flood of obfuscating messages" (Weizman 2017, 128) permeating this conflict. This research provides Azerbaijanis and Armenians, as well as all outside observers, with painstakingly detailed evidence that can support deeper understanding and honest reckoning. This study also advances CHW's larger goal to remove cultural heritage from the crosshairs of conflict; it is only with full and accurate information, informed publics, and dialogue that Karabakh's diminished, endangered, and centuries-old Azerbaijani and Armenian cultural heritage can be spared new abuses and manipulation in the culture war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

This study concerns the treatment of cultural heritage in the period between two wars, amidst decades shaped by sustained violence, profound loss, forced displacement, and abandonment. The First Nagorno-Karabakh war was an ethnic territorial conflict that arose out of the collapse of the U.S.S.R. In February 1988, the parliament of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) voted to unite the enclave with Armenia, and in a referendum that month, the majority Armenian population of NKAO voted in favor of independence from Azerbaijan. Pogroms of Armenians in Sumgait (February 1988), Kirovabad (Ganja) (November 1988), and Baku (January 1990), and of Azerbaijanis in Gugark (March 1988) sparked a cascade of violence, leading to full-scale war in which the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh were supported by the newly independent Republic of Armenia. Waves of ethnic cleansing ensued. Although figures are disputed, an estimated 1.2 million people were displaced between 1988 and 1994 (Broers 2021, 122). This estimate includes the roughly 360,000 Armenians who fled regions of the Azerbaijan SSR outside Nagorno-Karabakh and the roughly 205,000 Azerbaijanis who fled the Armenian SSR between 1987 and 1990 (ibid). But of immediate relevance to our investigation is the estimated 520,000-550,000 Azerbaijanis displaced from cities, towns, and villages in and around Nagorno-Karabakh between 1991 and 1994 (ibid, 123). It is this forced exodus and the attendant takeover of the abandoned landscapes by the unrecognized NKR that left numerous historic mosques, mausolea, and cemeteries vulnerable to harm. Amidst the tragic human toll of the conflict, cultural heritage, the region's repository of memory, history, and meaning has also suffered.

Our analysis reveals several key findings that are elaborated in the pages that follow. First, a plurality of Azerbaijani heritage sites remained unchanged from the late Soviet period to the 2020 war, demonstrating that neither the de facto authorities nor the general population sought to systematically eliminate the physical testimony of Azerbaijani cultural life in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Of the 109 cultural heritage sites we were able to assess for this investigation, 42 (38%) remained structurally unchanged since the late Soviet period, 9 (8%) sustained minor structural damage, 39 (36%) sustained major structural damage, 16 (15%) were destroyed, 2 (2%) were renovated, and 1 (1%) was restored.

Second, a great many sites sustained some form of damage (44% including both major and minor damage). Major damage consisted mainly of large-scale looting, which took place predominantly in the decade immediately after the 1994 ceasefire, judging by the satellite evidence. Opportunistic stripping of cultural heritage sites occurred in the context of weak legal, political, and economic institutions that also allowed for the well-documented ruination of towns and cities once inhabited by Azerbaijanis displaced by the first war. As we discuss below, this decade of looting must also be considered in the context of post-Soviet economic collapse, which led to enormous flows of metal onto the scrap metal market driven both by the personal enrichment practices of the privileged and the subsistence practices of the poor. Be that as it may, de facto Armenian authorities of NKR did not safeguard abandoned heritage properties from looters who, in most cases, damaged monuments in the course of a wider search for fungible economic resources.

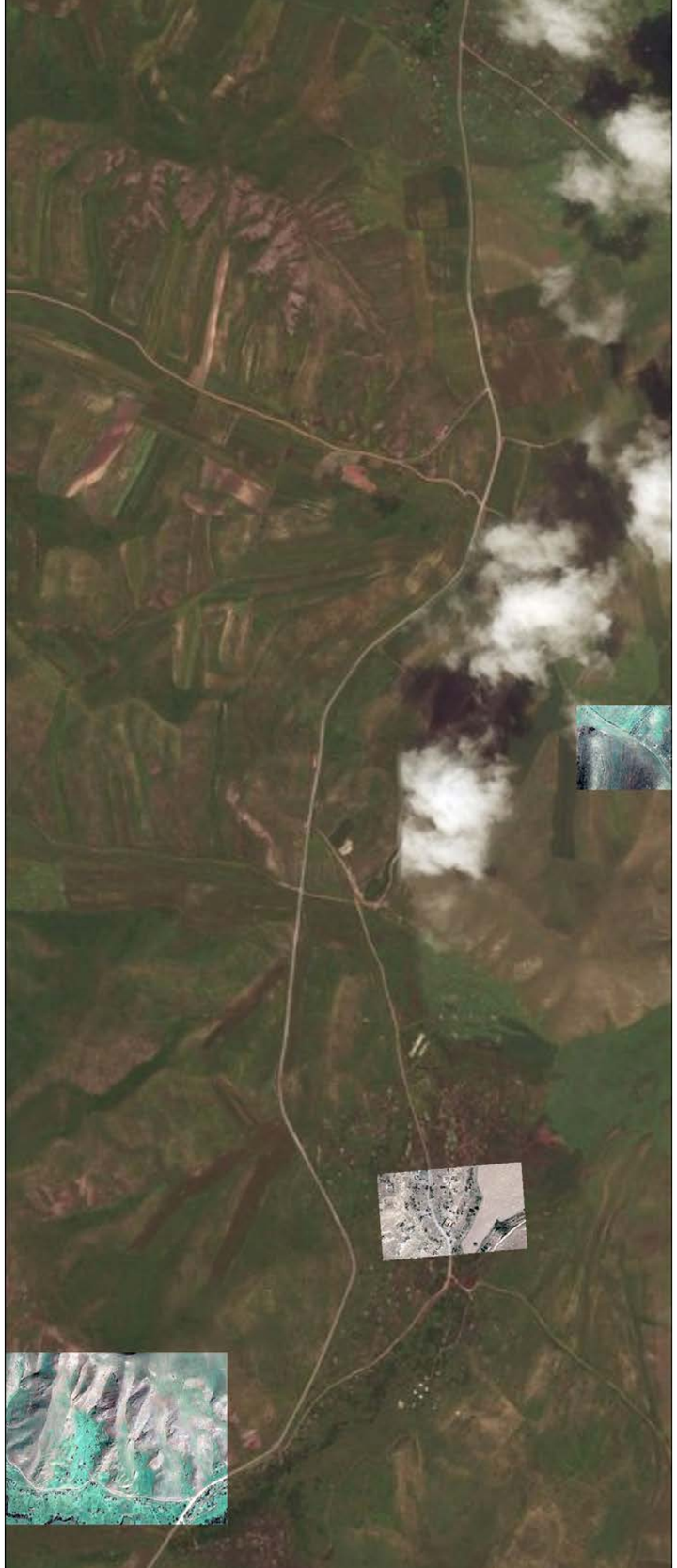
Third, our findings show that while the rate of outright destruction was low (n=16, or 15%), the deliberate targeting of mosques and mausolea increased over time, with most

destruction episodes occurring after 2011. Although scattered widely, we identified three locations where destruction episodes were concentrated: in Shusha, in Papravend along the Aghdere/Martakert highway, and in the large Garaaghach cemetery, west of Aghdam. These three locales represent 71% of the discrete destruction events. CHW is unable to identify the agents or proximal causes of the destruction. But most took place at a time when Armenian perceptions of the seven territories had changed. Immediately after the first war, the seven territories were widely understood as a bargaining chip in negotiations over the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh. But early in the new millennium, this pragmatism had given way to a new geopolitical culture that dissolved the distinction between Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories. This shift may in part account for the increase in the rate of destruction after 2011, perhaps an effort by certain individuals or groups to purge the landscape of the material traces of Azerbaijani cultural life.

Although destroyed monuments cluster in the Aghdam and Shusha regions, there is no correlation between the proximity of heritage sites to places of Armenian settlement and the incidence of destruction. Moreover, there is a negative correlation between proximity to places of Armenian settlement and the intensity of damage. Our assessment of the relative condition of heritage sites compared to the surrounding residential and civic properties that Azerbaijanis were forced to abandon reveals that in most cases heritage sites were either less severely impacted than their surroundings or suffered the same impacts. Heritage sites suffered more severe treatment than surrounding buildings in only a minority of cases.

The Methodology section of this report details how we geolocated 116 of the 146 sites in our database using a wide range of photographs, videos, scholarly publications, topographic maps, and satellite imagery. We also describe our methods for determining the condition of cultural properties and define our seven condition assessments: unchanged, major damage, minor damage, destroyed, renovated, restored, and indeterminate. Our assessments rely heavily on declassified high-resolution American satellite imagery from the 1980s, namely the KH-9 Hexagon platform, which provides a 'baseline' for the condition of sites in the late Soviet period. It is important to emphasize that our evaluations refer to the structural condition of heritage sites, which can be determined from satellite images and the other image sources available to us. Certain forms of damage, such as vandalism of surfaces, bullet holes, decay, and erosion are beyond the scope of this investigation as they require in-person inspection.

It is also important to note that this analysis does not undertake an examination of the wider landscape of cities and towns in the region that have been devastated by decades of conflict, animosity, and extractive economic practices. Our research mission focuses squarely on cultural heritage – public sites of collective history and memory – and does not undertake assessments of impacts on residential, administrative, or commercial buildings. Our primary concern is to understand what happened to Azerbaijani heritage between 1994 and 2020. Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites (supplement No. 1 to decision No. 132 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dating to August 2, 2001) provided the primary source for developing our dataset.



The threats to Azerbaijani cultural heritage after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War represent not an isolated instance, but a permutation of a broader phenomenon of heritage endangerment in the aftermath of ethnic conflict. In this report, we compare in broad brushstrokes the fate of Azerbaijani cultural heritage from 1994-2020 with two other cases of large scale population displacement, namely, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. This comparison offers instructive analogies and contrasts that can advance our understanding of how war and displacement affect cultural heritage. The most notable difference among the three cases under examination is the relatively limited reuse, renovation, or restoration of Azerbaijani heritage structures by the Armenian population of NKR. The most salient factor to explain this difference is the degree to which the victors in each of these armed conflicts sought to consolidate a new state through settler colonialism and the appropriation of properties and landscapes. Unlike in the cases in Cyprus and Palestine, over the course of three decades Armenians did not settle in large numbers in the seven territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. In that sense, limited Armenian settlement and the attendant lack of development inadvertently protected Azerbaijani heritage from more severe impacts.

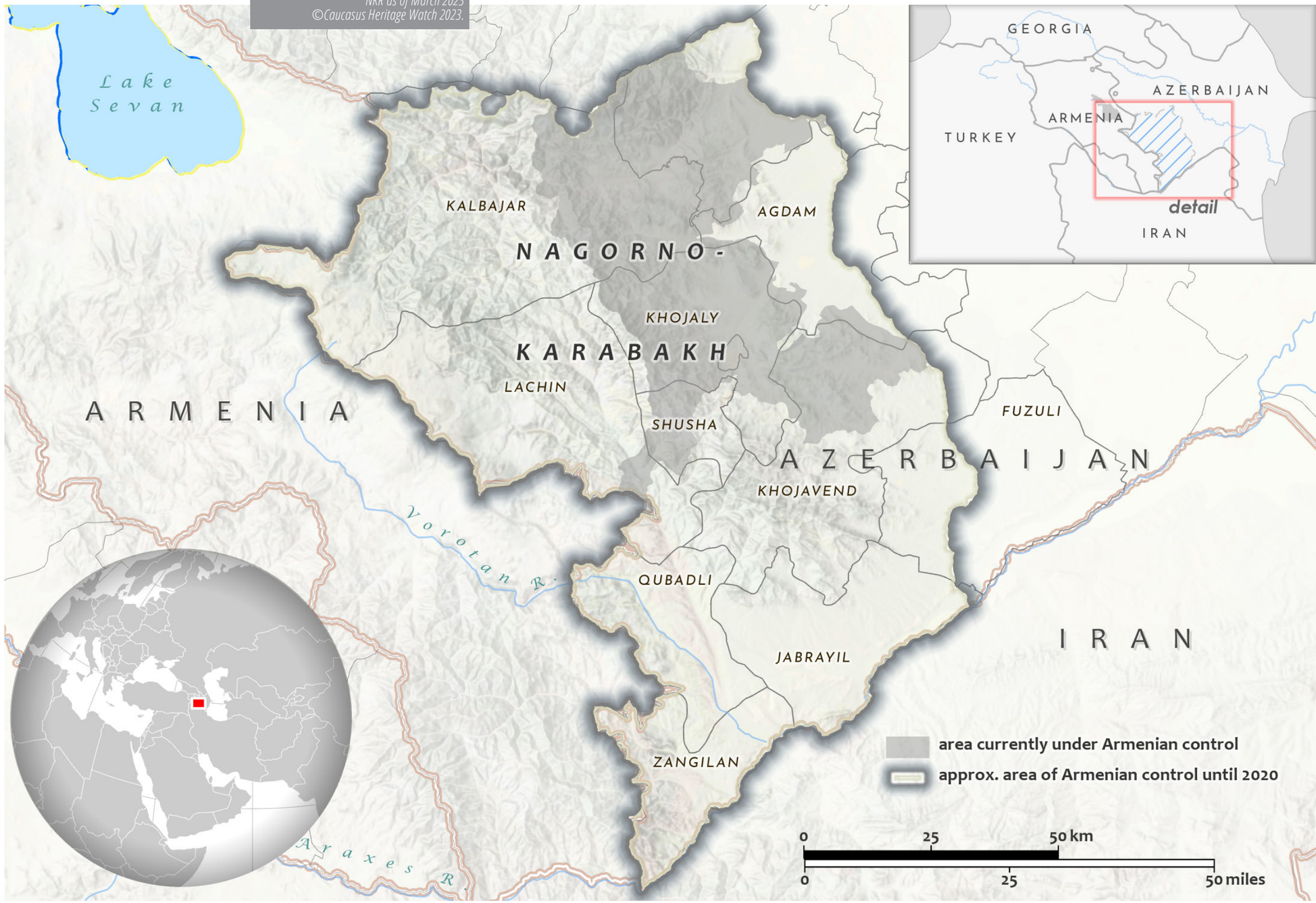
After two wars, it is significant that most of the mosques and mausolea in and around Nagorno-Karabakh are sufficiently intact to allow for restoration, raising broader questions about the future of the region's cultural heritage writ large.

After two wars, it is significant that most of the mosques and mausolea in and around Nagorno-Karabakh are sufficiently intact to allow for restoration, raising broader questions about the future of the region's cultural heritage writ large. Even as the threat has receded from Azerbaijani heritage (as of this writing, only two monuments remain under the control of the de facto authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Malibeyli Mosque and Khojaly Mausoleum), scores of Armenian churches, monasteries, and historic cemeteries in territories now under Azerbaijani jurisdiction face threats of appropriation, damage, and destruction. CHW continues to closely monitor Armenian medieval and early modern heritage currently at risk in Azerbaijan, maintaining our interactive dashboard and releasing regular reports. In the summer of 2022, we documented the destruction of an 18th-19th century Armenian church in the village of Susanliq/Mokhrenes. There is considerable danger that the next decade in Azerbaijani-controlled Karabakh will witness the juxtaposition of Azerbaijani heritage restoration with Armenian heritage destruction. Such an unraveling of the region's cultural landscape would only make the heritage politics of the region worse, further jeopardizing the fragile remains of the region's past.

In addition to the comprehensive inventory provided in this report, we have produced an online environment that presents the visual evidence for each site in an interactive StoryMap format. Like the comprehensive site inventory presented in this document, the interactive StoryMaps provide information about geolocation, photographs, maps, architectural description (in some cases), and a side-by-side comparison of satellite imagery to support our condition assessments. Readers who wish to examine all the supporting evidence are advised to focus on the interactive website or read the PDF of the report online so that the links to supporting (non-satellite) visual materials are accessible.

This report and supporting StoryMaps follow on CHW's Special Report #1 on the 'silent erasure' of Armenian cultural heritage in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan. That study documented a policy of state-sponsored cultural erasure, resulting in the destruction of almost the entire repertoire of Armenian cultural heritage sites in that region. In this study, we document a complex pattern of heritage impacts that led to some destruction and much damage, but also left a plurality of Azerbaijani cultural heritage unchanged since the late Soviet period. The two cases are thus incommensurable in scope and organization. It is our hope that these two investigations will be read and considered together as chapters in an account of heritage caught up in a prolonged ethnic conflict. By presenting an empirical, objective account of heritage impacted by war, our goal is to ground debate in facts rather than propaganda and to contribute to the truth that must precede any long-term hope of reconciliation.

Map 1. Nagorno-Karabakh with Azerbaijan's Administrative Districts and area under the control of the unrecognized NKR as of March 2023
©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.



CAUCASUS HERITAGE WATCH

WHO WE **ARE**

Caucasus Heritage Watch was founded in 2020 to monitor and document endangered and damaged cultural heritage using high-resolution satellite imagery. We strive to reveal visual evidence regarding past and present cultural erasure using the latest technologies of earth observation. Our purpose is to encourage accountability, inform public policy, support truth and reconciliation, and remove cultural heritage from the front lines of regional conflicts.

OUR **TEAM**

LORI KHATCHADOURIAN

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Studies
Cornell University

Prof. Khatchadourian has been working in the South Caucasus since 1995 in political development & then archaeology. She has received grants and fellowships from NSF, NEH, and ACLS. She is the author of Imperial Matter and other publications.

ADAM T. SMITH

Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences, Anthropology, Cornell University

Prof. Smith is the co-founder of Project ArAGATS, the oldest international archaeological collaboration in the region. He is a former Guggenheim fellow and author of numerous scholarly works.

IAN LINDSAY

Associate Professor, Anthropology
Purdue University

Prof. Lindsay has been studying the history and prehistory of the South Caucasus since 2000, with support from the NSF and other agencies. His archaeological practice incorporates the use of GIS and terrestrial and aerial remote sensing techniques.

HUSIK GHULYAN

Lead Researcher, CHW

Dr. Ghulyan is an independent researcher and PhD in Urban & Environmental Studies. His dissertation examined the production of urban space in Turkey. His current research studies the political geographies of modern & Soviet Armenia.

OUR **GOALS**

- Truth-telling: Investigating and monitoring past and future damage to cultural heritage can contribute to the work of truth and reconciliation. In contexts of war and genocide, cultural aerospace can bear witness to the condition of cultural heritage sites. These facts provide proof to counter state denialism, falsification, and other abuses that place heritage sites at the center of political conflict. Social repair can only happen when societies come to terms with troubled pasts and difficult truths.

- Deterrence: There are few instruments for deterring the destruction of cultural heritage within a state's sovereign borders. Satellite-based monitoring has the potential to discourage or restrain state actors from intentional erasure both through the act of bearing witness, and through the dissemination of authoritative research to relevant national and international agencies and the public.

- Accountability: In contexts of conflict and genocide, abuses to cultural heritage are often clandestine, making it difficult to hold actors accountable. Satellite-based monitoring that reveals the destruction of cultural heritage can provide a forensic resource so that the public can hold responsible parties accountable for harms, including their own leaders.

- Innovation: Caucasus Heritage Watch works to develop new techniques in the use of geospatial technologies for sustained, large-scale monitoring of cultural heritage at risk. As researchers, we seek to innovate new and transferrable methodologies that can amplify our practical impact and disseminate workflows that can empower partners in the region and assist researchers in other parts of the world.

FUNDING FOR THIS **SPECIAL REPORT**

We are deeply grateful to the organizations that have provided financial and logistical support for this special report.

ARAGATS FOUNDATION

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We are also supported by public donations to our efforts. You can join the network supporting CHW by donating to us through The Aragats Foundation's CHW Funding Campaign. If you are interested in exploring how you can help, please get in touch.

OUR **PARTNERS**

MONUMENT WATCH

RAA

RESEARCH ON ARMENIAN ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOGRAPHY, RA

RESEARCH **FINDINGS**

Charts 1-5 summarize the overall findings that are presented in exacting detail in the Site Inventory of this report and in the online StoryMaps. As Chart 1 shows, for this investigation we examined the records for 146 mosques, mausolea, and historic cemeteries. One of the challenges of this research was simply locating the monuments on the landscape, which we were able to do in the case of 116 sites (see Methodology-Geolocation). We have included in this report a Directory of Unlocated Sites in the hope that stakeholders with access to the region might provide new information that would allow us to update these findings.

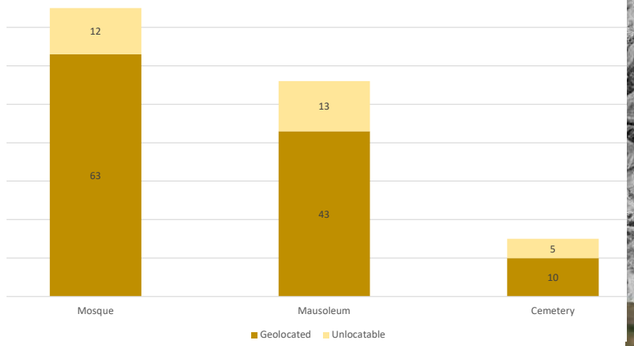


Chart 1. Site types by geolocation status ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

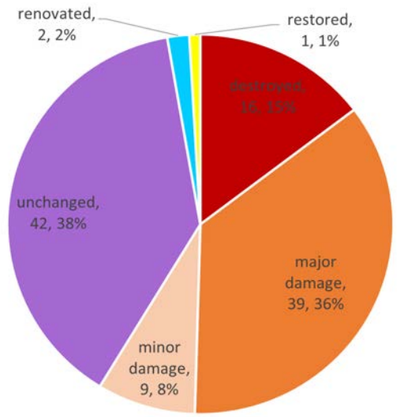


Chart 2. Condition assessments for all sites ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

After geolocating 116 heritage sites, we used high-resolution satellite imagery, photographs, videos, topographic maps, and scholarly publications to assess their condition. As Chart 2 shows, of the 109 sites whose condition CHW was able to assess, 42 (or 38%) remained unchanged from the late Soviet period through 2020, 39 (36%) suffered major damage, 16 (15%) were destroyed, 9 (8%) suffered minor damage, 2 (2%) were renovated, and 1 (1%) was restored. A list of all the heritage sites within each of these condition categories can be found in the Site Directory and Map 2 below of their location. Charts 3-5 and Maps 3-5 provide a breakdown of our findings for each type of site (mosque, mausoleum, cemetery).

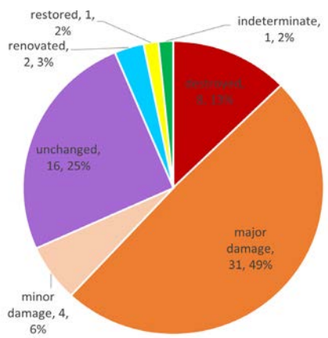


Chart 3. Condition assessments for mosques ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

What is immediately evident from these basic statistics is that the fate of Azerbaijani heritage under Armenian control was highly variable, showing no evidence of a singular governmental policy. As visible in Chart 2, a plurality of sites remained unchanged from the late Soviet period to the 2020 war and the rate of outright destruction was low (15%). But a great many sites sustained some form of damage (44% including both major and minor damage), and the total of heavily damaged (n=31) and

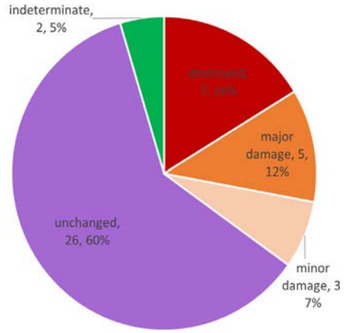


Chart 4. Condition assessments for mausolea ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

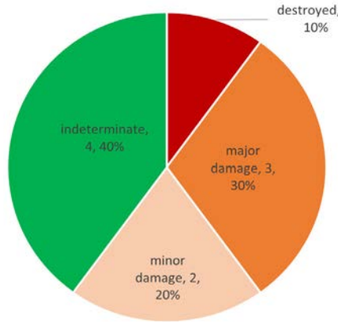


Chart 5. Condition assessments for cemeteries ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

AZERBAIJANI **HERITAGE**

Like any material legacy of a descendant community, Azerbaijani heritage tells the story of the long-term formation of the present nation, a history that reaches at least as far back as the 11th century. It was during this time that the formation of the Seljuk empire drew eastern Caucasia into an expansive polity where Persian served as a lingua franca for a dynasty genealogically tied to the Oghuz Turks of Eurasia (Altstadt 1992). The collapse of the Ilkhanate during the early 14th century and the subsequent incursions of Turkoman tribal confederations into Caucasia extended Persianate influence in the region, culminating in the founding of the Safavid dynasty and the conversion of the peoples of Azerbaijan to Shi'a Islam (Golden 1996). The Russian conquest of eastern Caucasia during the early 19th century added to the cultural diversity of the region and its heritage-scape. Amongst the minority communities of the region were Kurds, Lezgins, Avars, Georgians, Jews, and Armenians. But the largest component demographically were the descendants of the Turkoman tribes (Shaffer 2002). The Russian abolishment of the local khanates that had ruled eastern Caucasia since the end of the Safavids, along with repression of the clerics and economic integration of the region, created conditions for new forms of national solidarity amongst Azerbaijani Turks (Swietochowski 1985). Like most forms of 19th and early 20th century nationalism, the consolidation of the long-standing Turkic communities of Azerbaijan into "Azerbaijani Turks" also required the precipitation of a national heritage out of the complex inheritance of Turkish, Persian, and Arabic cultural influences.

As Lawrence Broers (2019, 55) notes, Azerbaijani national identity in the 20th century was powerfully shaped by the borders created upon the formation of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (AzSSR) after incorporation by the USSR in 1922. The boundary created by the Aras River created "a truncated, ruptured and ethnically stratified version of the Azerbaijani Turk tradition." The reformation of Azerbaijani Turks into Azerbaijanis in 1937 following the dissolution of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic and the formal delineation of the AzSSR led to a new form of "proto-Azerbaijanism" (Broers 2019, 57) that muted ties to the wider Irano-Persian sphere and instead sought out new theories of local autochthony, including a tendentious theory of Azerbaijani emergence out of the Late Antique kingdom of Albania that is widely discredited outside of Azerbaijan. The polemics of proto-Azerbaijanism do not attenuate Azerbaijani connections to a material and historical legacy that reaches back centuries.

destroyed (n=16) sites represents a majority of the dataset (51%). CHW delved deeper into these findings, analyzing them along several variables in order to reveal any patterns that might explain the treatment of Azerbaijani heritage under the control of the de facto Armenian authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh from 1994-2020.

Maps 2 through 5 (next page) and Table 1 present CHW's condition assessments of Azerbaijani heritage sites by region. Major damage or destruction took place in all regions except Khojaly, where the single mausoleum in our database remained unchanged. In most regions, our findings show that the treatment of monuments ranged widely to include destroyed, damaged, and unchanged sites.

Region	Number of Sites	Status						
		destroyed	major damage	minor damage	renovated	restored	indeterminate	unchanged
Aghdam	29	24.1%	31.0%	10.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	31.0%
Fuzuli	17	11.8%	35.3%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.1%
Jabrayil	10	10.0%	30.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%
Kalbajar	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Khojaly	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Khojavend	2	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Lachin	7	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	28.6%
Qubadli	13	0.0%	30.8%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	46.2%
Shusha	22	18.2%	18.2%	4.5%	9.1%	4.5%	13.6%	31.8%
Zangilan	14	0.0%	71.4%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%
Grand Total	116	13.8%	33.6%	7.8%	1.7%	0.9%	6.0%	36.2%

Table 1. Condition assessments by region ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

MAJOR DAMAGE PATTERNS

The public availability of satellite imagery determines our ability to define date ranges for impacts on Azerbaijani heritage sites. The current lack of available high-resolution satellite imagery prior to 2002 greatly limits our understanding of the timing of impacts in the years immediately following the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, as does the limited satellite imagery coverage for many regions over subsequent years.

But there is evidence to suggest that most of the major damage to Azerbaijani heritage took place in the decade after the 1994 ceasefire. As Chart 6 shows, of the 39 sites that sustained major damage, as many as 20 had already been impacted by the end of 2005. Most of the remaining 19 heavily damaged sites occurred in places where the earliest publicly available satellite imagery dates to 2009 or 2010, leaving the date of damage an open question. But even though high-resolution satellite imagery for this region was scarce prior to 2005, we can say with certainty that as many as five sites were damaged before 2004, and four sites were definitively damaged by 2002. An additional three sites that were subsequently destroyed (and therefore are not included in the count of 39 sites that sustained "major damage") had also been damaged by 2002 (N.5089, N.5077, N.5145). In light of the evidence, we deem it likely that most if not all of the major damage took place in the years immediately following the First Nagorno-Karabakh War.

It is extremely difficult to disentangle the convergence of factors that may have made such damage possible in the first decade. To address this problem, we first assessed the

relationship between the impacts to cultural heritage and the broader decimation of towns like Aghdam and Fuzuli, and the extent to which Azerbaijani heritage sites might have been specifically targeted in the wide-scale ruination that consumed Karabakh during and after the first war. In the 73 cases in which heritage sites were located either within or near to villages and towns, CHW documented their relative condition compared to the surrounding residential and civic structures.

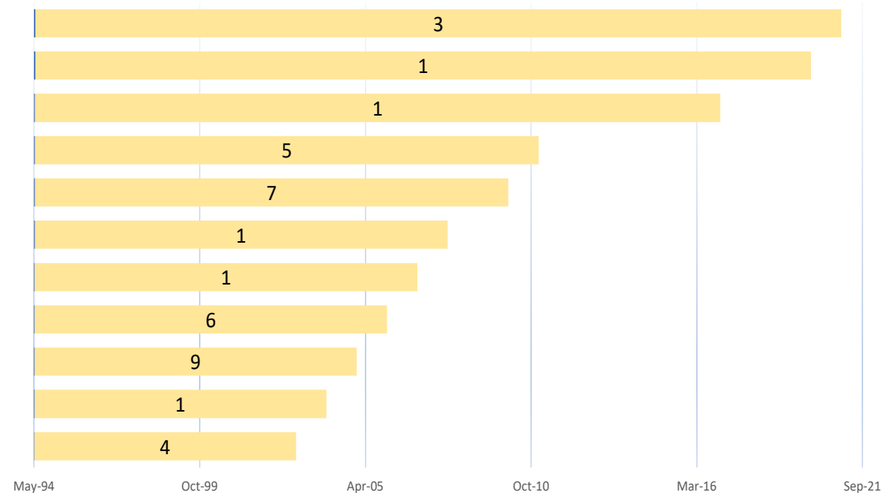


Chart 6. Time ranges of major damage and number of sites ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

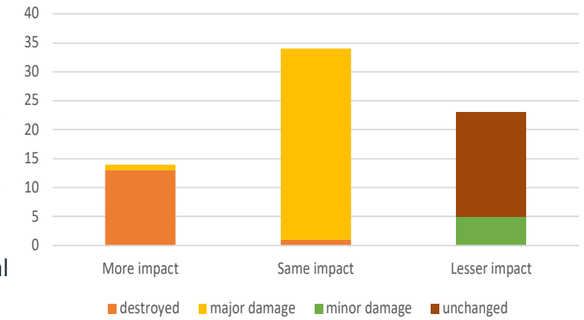
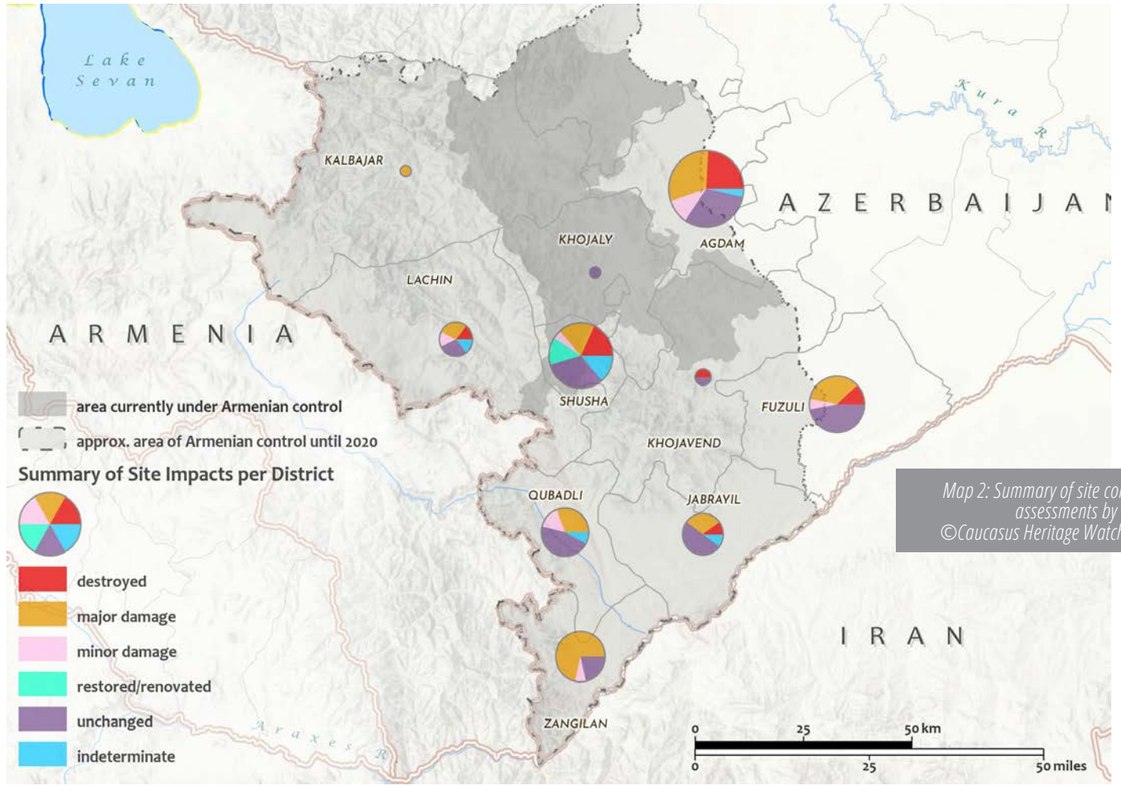


Chart 7. Heritage site conditions relative to surrounding architecture ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

As Chart 7 shows, we found that in 34 of the 73 cases (47%), the heritage sites suffered the same degree of damage as the surrounding vernacular architecture. That is, the pattern of damage looks the same for the mosques as for other buildings in their vicinity, showing the removal of roofs and other building components, and subsequent erosion, decay, and ruderal plant colonization.

In another 23 of the 73 cases (32%), heritage sites were largely untouched ("unchanged"), or less impacted ("minor damage") than the surrounding architecture, suggesting that in some cases heritage sites were either disregarded or intentionally left intact. Overall, of the 42 sites in CHW's database that were assessed as unchanged, 18 of these were located in or near villages and towns that suffered large-scale looting, yet these sites remained largely unscathed.

In 14 cases Azerbaijani heritage sites were more severely impacted than their surroundings. In one of these cases (Pichanis Mosque, N.4726), the heritage site sustained major damage, unlike the surrounding structures. In the remaining 13 cases, heritage



Map 2: Summary of site condition assessments by district
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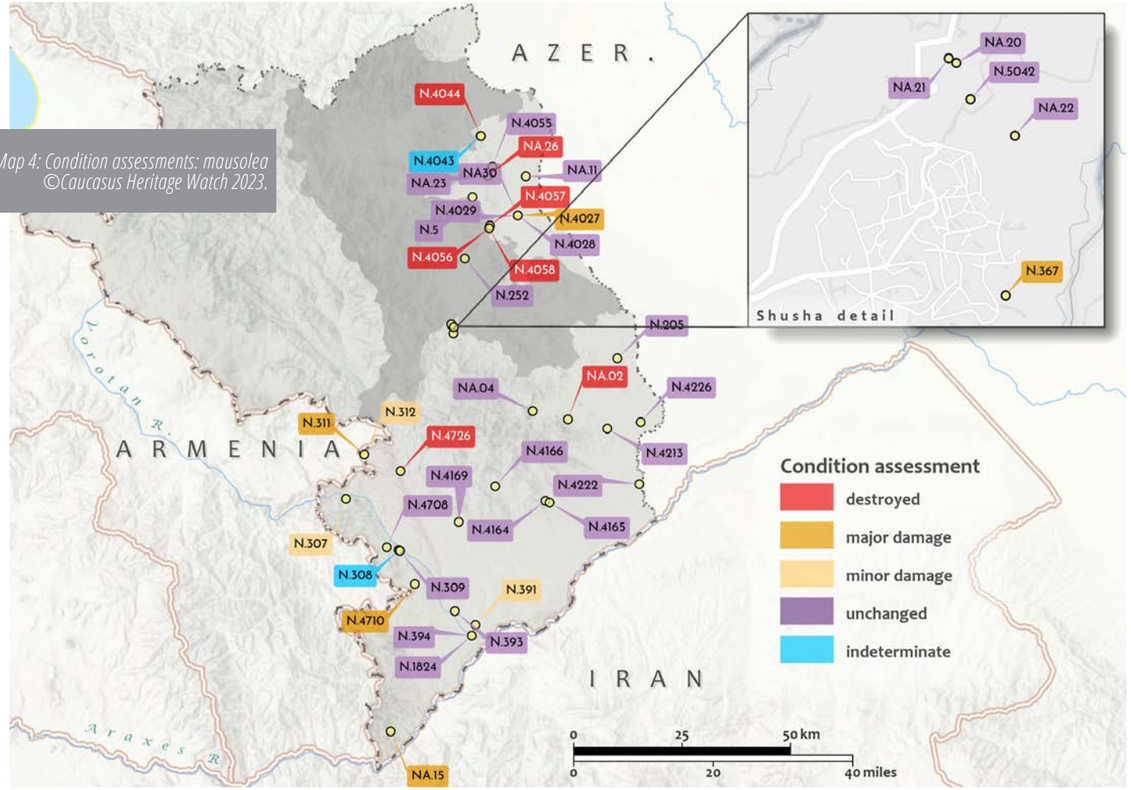
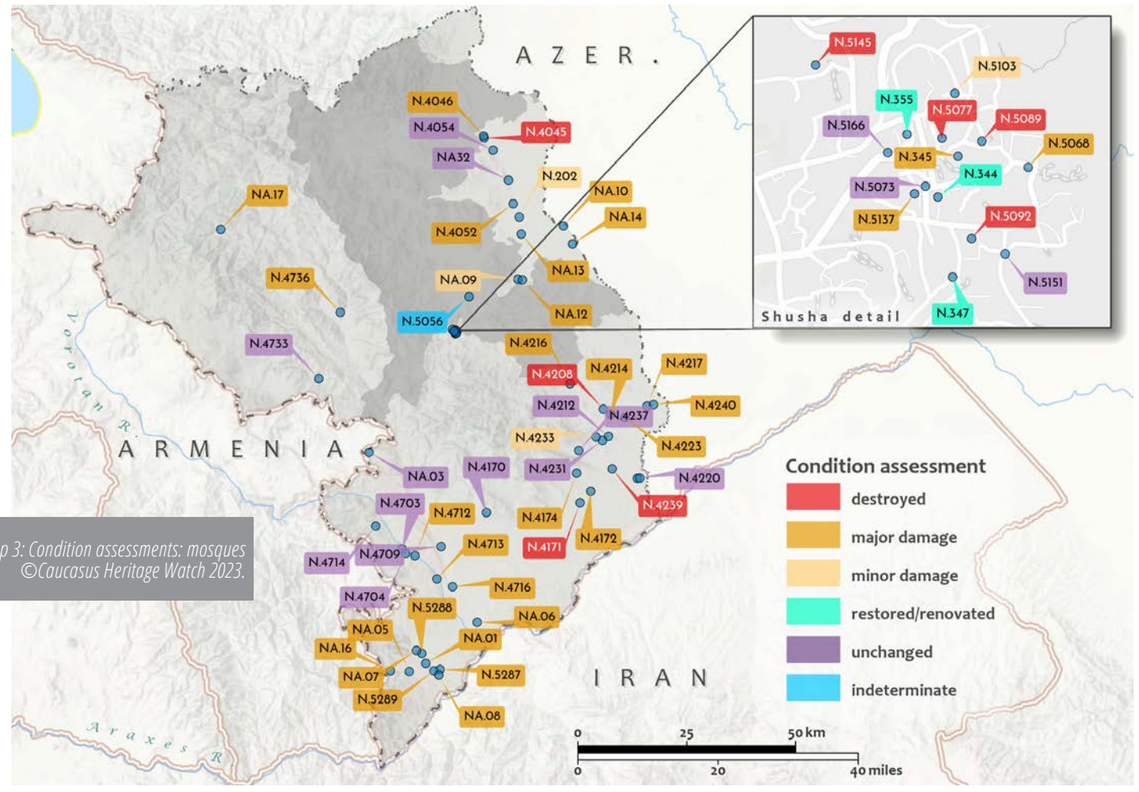
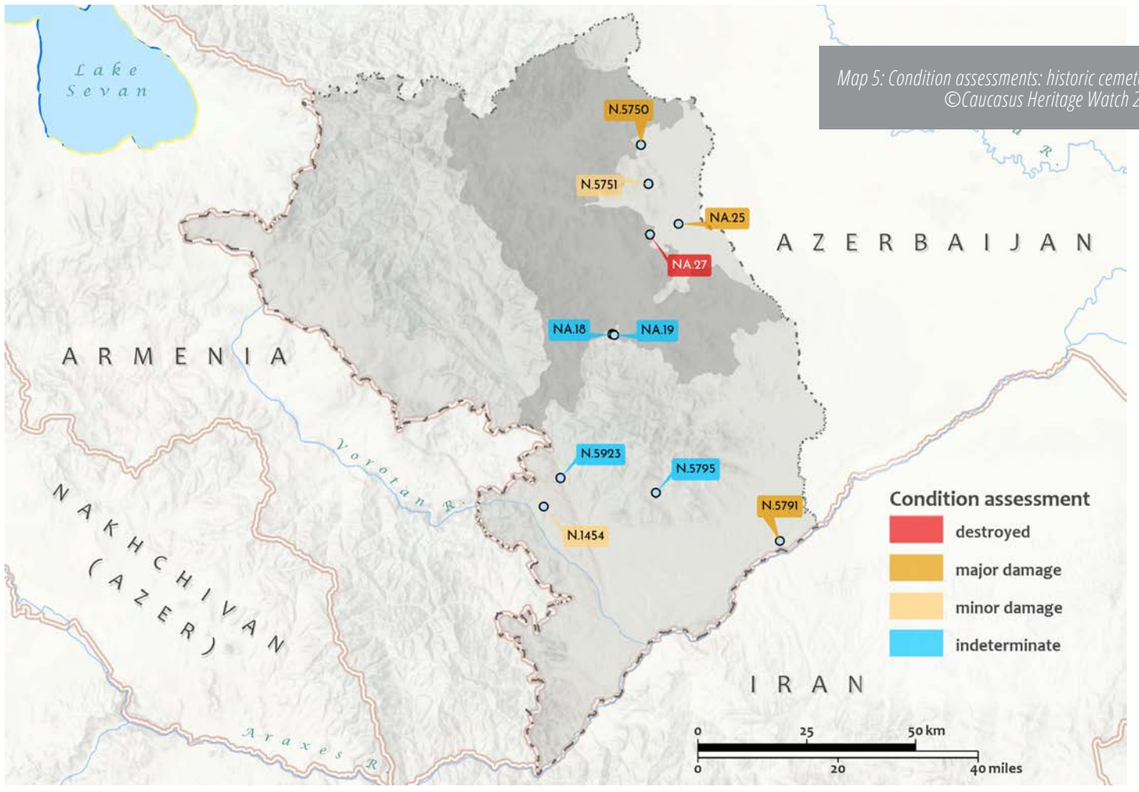


Map 4: Condition assessments: mausolea
©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.



Map 3: Condition assessments: mosques
©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.



Map 5: Condition assessments: historic cemeteries
©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

sites were destroyed while structures in their vicinity were damaged but not razed (see discussion of destroyed sites below).

The building materials of certain heritage structures appear to have contributed to their preservation. Historic buildings with metal roofing that could be stripped and sold on the scrap metal market or reused elsewhere were more significantly impacted than structures with earth or stone roofing. Nearly all of the mosques assessed as "unchanged" have flat, earthen roofs, such as Chalabilar Mosque (N.4170), Sardarli Mosque (N.4231), Garadaghly Mosque (N.4237), Damirchilar Mosque (N.4703), Dondarly Mosque (N.4704), Yusifbeyli Mosque (N.4709), Khalaj Mosque (N.4714), and Abdal Mosque (NA.09). In several cases, the Soviet-era metal roofs were removed only to expose the traditional domes of a mosque that were left unharmed, as at Aghdam Mosque (N.202), Gochamadli Mosque (N.4233), Haji Abbas Mosque (N.5073), and Chol Gala Mosque (N.5103). In one instance, at the Jijimli Mosque (NA.03), the Soviet-era metal roof was stripped to expose a flat earthen roof without domes that was not damaged. In only two instances did we identify "unchanged" mosques that appear to have metal roofs, namely, the Seyidli Mosque (N.5151) and Mamay Mosque (N.5166), both in Shusha.

Similarly, all of the mausolea located near or within areas that were once settled remained unchanged or only slightly damaged despite looting of nearby buildings, as at Ibrahim Khalil Khan Mausoleum (N.4028), Mehdigulu Khan Mausoleum (N.4029), Skhykhlar Mausoleum (N.4166), Dagh Tumas Mausoleum (N.4169), Yukhary Seyidahmadli Mausoleum (N.4226), and Mir Mehdi Khazani Mausoleum (NA.04). These structures have stone domes and limited metal content.

In sum, the evidence suggests that many of the mosques and mausolea that remained in sound structural condition may have escaped damage to some degree because value could not be extracted from their building materials. And conversely, virtually all of the sites that sustained major damage appear to have been targeted as part of the wider effort to mine fungible economic resources from abandoned property.

We did find a significant correlation between damage to Azerbaijani heritage sites and distance from habitation. Most of the sites that received either major damage (n=23) or minor damage (n=7) since the 1994 ceasefire were located far (> 2km) from any places of settlement. There are undoubtedly a number of factors that explain this complex picture, including the likely timing of damage in the first decade after the first war, the relative lack of Armenian resettlement in the eastern regions of Aghdam and Fuzuli (see below), and the proximity of a number of sites to the militarized line of contact.

The major damage of the post-war years thus cannot be explained as an isolated phenomenon, apart from the wide-scale looting of the abandoned towns and cities. But, while the devastating ruination of Azerbaijani settlements is well-known to those familiar with the conflict due to a proliferation of images in news and social media since the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, researchers have yet to study it in any depth. The political, legal, and economic conditions that made rampant stripping possible, as well as the actors and networks involved, remain shrouded in darkness. Such questions are beyond the scope of this report, and may not be possible to address in full even with sustained ethnographic research, given the sensitivity of the matter. But the questions at stake are clear.

The first concerns the structure of governance, property relations, and legal jurisdiction in the seven territories in the years after 1994. What was the property status of the abandoned buildings, and what authority administered the territories after Azerbaijani expulsion? It is notable that the de facto National Assembly defined the borders of the new polity to include the wartime conquests only in June 1998 (a political geography

later affirmed in the 2006 constitution) (Broers 2021, fn. 29, 336). This implies a void in executive, legislative, or juridical authority. According to Broers' 2014 interview with Ararat Danielyan, de facto Minister of Justice of the NKR, Armenia's legislation obtains in NKR, "until and unless the parliament adopts legislation" (ibid, 253). But it is not clear whether this legal arrangement was established by the mid-1990s, again leaving open the possibility of a juridical void, even within a de facto polity. It is reasonable to suppose some form of military governance in most regions adjacent to the Line of Contact. But the question remains: what authority and institutions held jurisdiction in the seven territories immediately after 1994, and thus the responsibility (even if not the will) to prevent the looting of abandoned properties, including sites of cultural heritage?

A second thorny question concerns the agents of looting and their motivations. Subsistence looting likely played a role, given the dire economic hardships of the 1990s across the former Soviet Union. The economic calamity that followed the collapse of the planned economy was particularly severe in Armenia and NKR due to blockades of road, rail, and pipeline transit by both Azerbaijan and its regional ally, Turkey. Scavenging for abandoned movable property and easily removable metal in this war-torn landscape may have been a strategy to alleviate destitution for some.

CHW'S IMPACT **CATEGORIES**

- *Unchanged: No significant change visible in satellite imagery since the late Soviet period.*
- *Minor Damage: Some visible impacts to exterior facades or decorative elements but structural integrity remains preserved..*
- *Major Damage: Significant visible impacts that have compromised structural integrity.*
- *Destroyed: Complete loss of structural integrity. Walls reduced to foundations or less.*
- *Renovated: Significant intervention in built structure that changes both form and use.*
- *Restored: Significant intervention in line with the original form and use of the structure.*
- *Indeterminate: No determination concerning changes to condition.*

Yet research on the post-Soviet 'ruins economy' in Armenia has shown that subsistence looting, while relevant, does not alone account for the large-scale asset stripping of the mid-1990s and 2000s (Khatchadourian 2022). In Armenia, the post-Soviet elite (the former *nomenklatura*) who had benefited from the inequities of the privatization process pursued personal enrichment through the stripping of heavy machinery, building materials, and scrap metal from their newfound industrial assets. As Khatchadourian notes, "This pursuit of wealth accumulation was made possible by an unregulated market, a weak legal structure, and complicity between the private sector and government officials mired in graft. Market demand…was transnational, and it emerged primarily from Iran" (ibid, 324). Informants in Khatchadourian's ethnographic research at decommissioned factories across Armenia consistently note that the booming post-Soviet scrap metal economy of the 1990s and early aughts was overwhelmingly directed toward Iran, whose brokers scoured Armenia's factories, making deals with owners that led to convoys of metal hauled across the Armenian-Iranian border (ibid, 333). There is every reason to suppose that, in some measure, the massive flows of scrap metal stripped from abandoned properties in NKR belonged to this same system of privilege and extraction that was decimating Armenia's Soviet factories in those same years.

In short, just as the stripping of Azerbaijani cultural heritage in Karabakh cannot be understood apart from the wide-scale looting of the landscapes within which it is situated, so too must the phenomenon be considered in the context of the wider, contemporaneous post-Soviet 'ruins economy', in which powerful, networked, oligarchic

interests as well as impoverished individuals played a role. This is especially so given the extreme entanglements of the economic structures and political elites of Armenia and NKR, through both formal institutions and "informal sinews" (Broers 2021, 254). Yet while the processes are interrelated, the property regimes that undergirded them differed. In Armenia, it is possible to speak of "asset stripping" to the extent that much large-scale ruination of decommissioned Soviet factories is generally regarded to have been orchestrated by individuals who owned the properties in question, regardless of the corruption that pervaded and illegitimated the privatization process. In contrast, in NKR the ambiguous and unlawful post-war property conditions render the stripping of fungible materials nothing other than outright looting.

DESTRUCTION PATTERNS

CHW's analysis of the timing of destruction events shows that only a few Azerbaijani heritage sites were razed in the first decade after they fell under the control of Armenian forces. Chart 8 below represents the date ranges for the destruction of 14 out of the 16 destroyed sites, excluding those whose destruction we attribute to excessive asset stripping rather than targeted demolition (N.4239, N.4171). In the decade following the 1994 ceasefire, three mausolea were destroyed across a widely dispersed area, suggesting distinct, isolated events (N.4726, NA.02, NA.28).

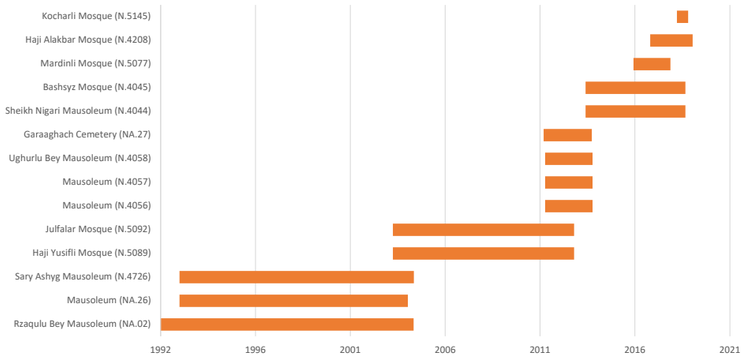


Chart 8. Time ranges of site destruction events ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

The rate of destruction remained low well into the early 2000s. Two mosques (N.5089, N.5092) were destroyed sometime between 2004 and 2013. Both were located in the city of Shusha. Site N.5089, the Hajji Yusifli Mosque, initially suffered major damage in the decade after the first war but by 2013 the remains of the mosque's foundations had been removed and a new structure--likely a residential building--was constructed at the site. The Julfalar Mosque (N.5092), in contrast, survived intact well into the 2000s, with satellite data showing a largely undamaged structure as late as February 2004. By July 2013, the mosque had been removed as construction began on a large building, which from its scale appears to have been a civic or administrative building. In sum, between 1994 and 2013, we have evidence for five destroyed heritage sites: three mausolea in disparate parts of the seven territories and two mosques in Shusha. Between 2011 and 2020, the deliberate targeting of Azerbaijani heritage sites increased, with nine sites destroyed in the subsequent eight years. Due to the increased availability of commercial satellite data for this decade, it is possible to resolve the dates of several of these destruction episodes rather narrowly. Four sites in close proximity were destroyed between 2011 and 2014: three mausolea in the historic Garaaghach cemetery (N.4056, N.4057, N.4058) appear to have been destroyed, perhaps in a single destruction event. At some point in that same interval, the cemetery (NA.29) as a whole was burned.

We identified another cluster of two destroyed sites in the area of Papravend. Between

2014 and 2019 the Bashsyz Mosque (N.4045) and a mausoleum (N.4044), located across the street from one another, were destroyed. Given their proximity it is possible, but not clearly demonstrable, that these two events were related.

The most recently destroyed sites documented by CHW include two additional mosques in Shusha and a mosque in Fuzuli. In Shusha, the Mardinli Mosque (N.5077) had been renovated into a movie theater during the Soviet period, and hence the sacredness of the site may have already been lost to memory before the first war. Nevertheless, the historic structure suffered major damage prior to the earliest commercial satellite imagery in 2002. The ruins of the structure were still visible in August 2016, but by September 2018 the remaining walls had been completely removed and the site cleared. Shusha's Kocharli Mosque (N.5145) also suffered major damage in the decade following the first war, but its superstructure was still intact in 2002. The mosque continued to slowly degrade over the following decade and a half, until sometime just prior to June 2019, when it was destroyed and the site graded.

The Hajji Alakbar Mosque in Fuzuli (N.4208) was also impacted during the Soviet era, when its traditional domes were covered by a metal roof. The mosque survived with only minor damage to its roof at least until June 2018. Sometime between that date and August 2019, the structure was completely demolished.

Two aspects of the destruction of Azerbaijani heritage are particularly striking. First, although scattered widely, we do find three locations of heightened impacts: in Shusha, in Papravend along the Aghdere/Martakert highway, and in the large Garaaghach cemetery, west of Aghdam. These three locales represent 71% (n=10) of the 14 episodes CHW identifies as targeted destruction. The remaining four episodes are geographic isolates.

Second, we underline the compressed timing of these episodes of heritage destruction. 5 sites were destroyed sometime between 1992 and 2013 (a cumulative rate of roughly one site every four years). In contrast, nine sites were destroyed in the eight years between 2011 and 2019, a cumulative rate of approximately one site every 11 months. The final years before the second war clearly witnessed a relative acceleration in severe impacts to Azerbaijani heritage sites.

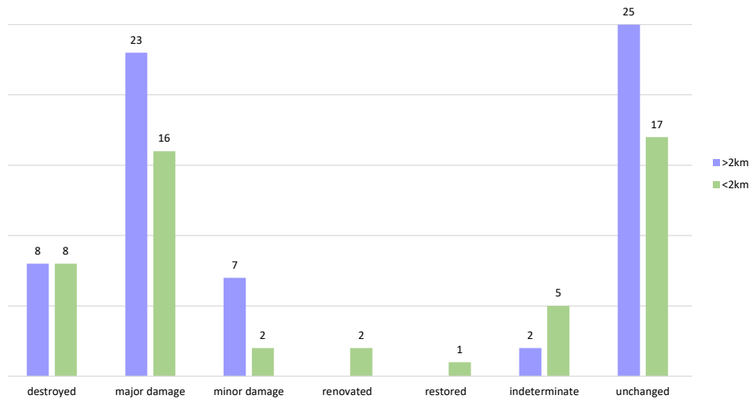


Chart 9. Impacts by proximity to settlement ©Caucasus Heritage Watch 2023.

In an effort to explain why only some sites were destroyed, one variable we examined was geographic location. In particular, CHW examined the proximity of destroyed heritage sites to inhabited settlements but found no clear patterning (see Chart 9). Half (n=8) of the destroyed sites were located within inhabited places or in very close proximity to them (within 2km), while the remaining 8 destroyed sites were far from inhabited places (more than 2 km distant). In other words, there was no correlation between proximity to settlement and incidence of destruction.

CHW is not able to determine the specific agents or the proximal causes of the destruction events, but it is notable that the acceleration in destruction after 2011 took place at a time when an expansive vision of NKR's geography was already firmly entrenched in Armenian geopolitical culture. In what Lawrence Broers has called "a kind of inexorable geopolitical mission creep", by the mid-2000s the seven territories were no longer framed expediently as a 'buffer zone' or a 'security belt' that would be traded as collateral in return for Armenian demands but, rather affectively, as 'liberated territories' belonging to an "augmented Armenia" (Broers 2021, 98). Toponymic and cartographic changes supported this shifting geopolitical vision. It is not overly speculative to suggest that this well-documented transformation in the geopolitical imagination of the region might also have provoked the disparate and disorganized incidents of destruction documented by CHW.

PATTERNS IN RENOVATION, RESTORATION, AND REUSE

CHW's investigation revealed relatively few instances of renovation, restoration, and reuse of Azerbaijani heritage sites and hence there is very little data for defining and assessing possible patterns. Renovations and restorations were concentrated entirely in the city of Shusha. The Upper Govhar Agha Mosque underwent a contentious restoration in 2019, which framed the structure as a Persian, rather than Azerbaijani, heritage site. The Taza Mahalla Mosque (N.347) was renovated in 2014 and turned into a geology museum. And the Saatli Mosque (N.355) was renovated between 2004 and 2013, but CHW was unable to ascertain the function of the renovated structure.

We documented seven instances of informal agrarian reuse, in which mosques that were either unchanged or had sustained major damage were repurposed as animal pens (i.e., N.202, N.4052, N.4212, N.4216, N.4217, N.4709, N.4713). In four such cases, satellite imagery makes it possible to determine the approximate date when the mosque was reused as a barn. Giyasly Mosque (N.4052) was turned into a barn between December 2011 and June 2014, during which time the exterior areas to the north were cleared to contain animals. At the Merdinli Mosque (N.4217), a roof was added to a heavily damaged mosque and an exterior area was cleared for livestock between 2012 and 2019. Having sustained major damage, Qajar Mosque (N.4216) was given a new roof by 2013, and by 2018, areas to the north of the mosque were cleared for tending animals. Satellite imagery also shows that an area to the north of the Haji Giyaseddin Mosque (N.4212) was cleared, likely for keeping animals, between 2014 and 2019. Where it can be documented by satellite imagery, agrarian reuse was a relatively late development, occurring after 2011.

***

Overall, the patterning of the impacts to Azerbaijani heritage between 1994 and 2020 documented by CHW does not indicate a program of cultural erasure implemented and sustained by a state actor. Instead, the patterns provide evidence of an initial phase (1994-2011) of extensive collateral damage caused primarily, but not exclusively, by the mining of building materials. By 2011, the available resources for looting were largely exhausted across the region. But what we found instead was an increase in the rate of targeted destruction concentrated primarily, but not exclusively, in three geographic areas. These patterns set the treatment of Azerbaijani heritage between the wars in a rather unique frame of reference, fundamentally different from the project of state-sponsored cultural erasure that we documented in Azerbaijan's demolition of Armenian heritage in the autonomous region of Nakhchivan. But impacts to Azerbaijani heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh also cannot be understood as solely a problem of neglect or failed stewardship. In the next section, we seek to better define the patterns we have documented by setting Azerbaijani heritage between the wars in a comparative context.

GLOBAL **SIGNIFICANCE**

The tragedies of large-scale human displacement and dispossession caused by 20th and 21st century wars have exacted an immense toll on global cultural landscapes. The forced expulsion of unwanted ethnic or religious groups severs communities from their ancestral lands and exposes forcibly abandoned cultural properties in villages, towns, and cities to the physical and symbolic violence of destruction, neglect, and appropriation. In the aftermath of violent conflict, victorious powers—their military forces, settlers, developers, and looters—inflict continued harm on displaced communities through the abuse of their vacated built environment, from vernacular architecture to cultural, religious, and community buildings of artistic or historic value. Histories and identities are suppressed, eroded, and erased.

The precarious predicament of Azerbaijani cultural heritage after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994 represents not an isolated instance, but a permutation of a broader phenomenon of heritage endangerment in the aftermath of ethnic conflict. Here we highlight in broad brushstrokes two comparative contexts, namely, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. While the three cases may be incommensurate with respect to the geopolitical dynamics of the conflicts, and the global clout and political status of the players (Israel is the obvious outlier in this regard, as a powerful, recognized state), comparison can nevertheless reveal common patterns, as well as distinctive features in the treatment of cultural heritage following war and large-scale population displacement. Instructive analogies and contrasts help illuminate the wider significance of the heritage quagmires in the Caucasus, of which Nagorno-Karabakh is just one (cf. Khatchadourian et al. 2022; Tevzadze et al. 2022). The immense complexity of the contentious Mediterranean cases prohibits comprehensive analysis in this forum, but we invite readers to pursue their study of these cases by consulting the works cited.

Church of Koutzobentes, Northern Cyprus, reused as a cafe. Photo Courtesy of Charalampos G. Chotzakoglou

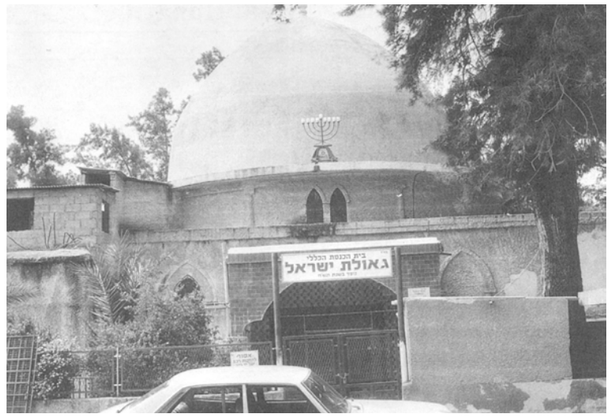
In this comparative analysis, we focus selectively on cultural heritage whose architectural or artistic forms are associated with a specific ethnic or religious group. In doing so, we recognize that a more capacious understanding of heritage could extend beyond historic and religious buildings, 'monuments', and old cemeteries, to include the entire tangible fabric of social lives—residential buildings, shops, fields, orchards, schools, etc.—decimated by violence and memorialized by victims as places of memory, nostalgia, and grievance. But our focus in our studies of Armenian and Azerbaijani heritage under the control of the Other is on the relationship between conflict and cultural erasure. Hence, our comparative analysis singles out archetypical components of cultural heritage – mosques, churches, monasteries, mausolea, and historic cemeteries – from the wider, worn-torn landscapes to which they belong.

PALESTINIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE: THE 1948 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR

Mosque of Isdud.
Photo Courtesy of the Library of the Institute for Palestine Studies, after Khalidi 1992, 112.

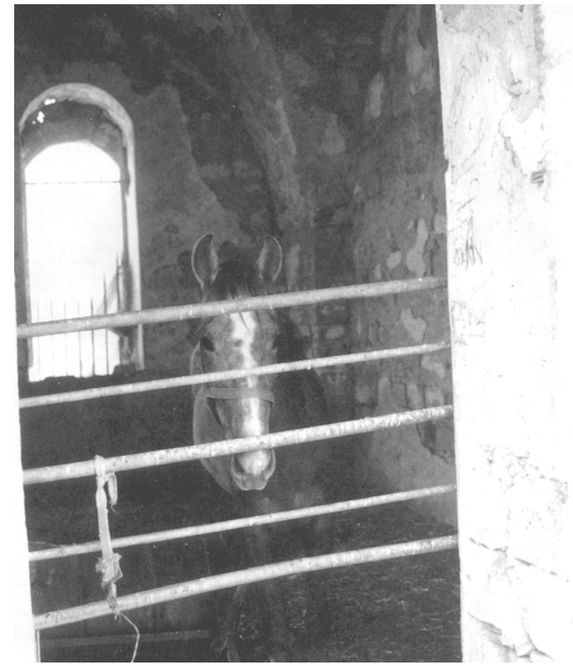
The 1948 Arab-Israeli War that led to the creation of the state of Israel resulted in the displacement of approximately 750,000 Palestinians and the abandonment of at least 418 Palestinian villages (Khalidi 1992). Subsequent episodes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, most notably the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, caused yet further exile. Palestinian refugees were forced to abandon not only their homes, neighborhoods, and villages, but also countless historic districts, historic cemeteries, mosques, shrines, and churches.

Most of the 418 Palestinian villages depopulated in 1948 were ravaged in the course of the war or in its immediate aftermath (Benvenisti 2002, 165-9; Kadman 2015). In most cases, villages were demolished by fighting forces or civilians from neighboring settlements. During and immediately after the war, looting of Arab movable properties was also widespread (Kadman 2015, 15), and included the dismantling of houses (Benvenisti 2002, 166). Benvenisti writes that "[t]he drive to seek vengeance and the desire to eject hostile neighbors and enjoy the spoils of war acted together with military exigencies to encourage the destruction of property" (ibid). The demolition of the Palestinian villages was initially the work of the Zionist movement and was ostensibly carried out without government involvement, but the military played a leading role in the destruction (ibid). By 1949, and into the 1950s and 1960s, the Israeli government was actively leveling abandoned villages (ibid, 168). Military, political, and economic factors were at play, but above all, the purpose of the eradication was to prevent the refugees' return. Under the 1950 Abandoned Property Law, the state expropriated refugee properties and reallocated land and houses either to existing Jewish communities or to settlers in newly established settlements located within or, more often, near to the abandoned villages. Today, apart from some recent restoration projects, all that remains is rubble, ruins, and dilapidated buildings in places where bulldozer access was difficult.



Mosque of Wadi Hunayn, reused as a synagogue.
Photo Courtesy of the Library of the Institute for Palestine Studies, after Khalidi 1992, 420.

Given that the primary objective was to block Palestinians from returning to their homes, Meron Benvenisti (2002, 168) notes a certain "tendency to avoid demolishing mosques, churches, and the graves of Muslim saints." But his analysis of Walid Khalidi's (1992) authoritative catalog, *All That Remains*, shows the staggering extent of the damage to Palestinian mosques in the abandoned villages. About 100 of the 140 mosques extant in 1948 were demolished. Of those that remained, "twenty mosques are currently in various stages of deterioration and decay; six are being used as living quarters, sheep-pens or stables, carpentry shops, or storehouses; six have been, or are at present, serving as museums, bars, or tourist sites of some sort; four are being used wholly, or in part, as synagogues; and two have been partially renovated for Muslim worship, but that use has been either prohibited or restricted" (Benvenisti 2002, 289). Benvenisti further notes that only around forty of the hundreds of Arab cemeteries were still visible at the time of the fieldwork compiled in Khalidi's volume, which took place between 1987 and 1990. As investigations by Forensic Architecture have demonstrated, demolition and destruction continue to the present, shattering the heritage-scape of the West Bank and repeatedly demolishing historical sites in Gaza.



Interior of the Mosque of Kawfakha, reused as a stable.
Photo Courtesy of the Library of the Institute for Palestine Studies, after Khalidi 1992, 121.

The Mosque of 'Amqa (Acre). Photo Courtesy of the Library of the Institute for Palestine Studies, after Khalidi 1992, xliii.

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CROSSHAIRS ON CYPRUS

St. Sergios, Neta, Northern Cyprus.
Photo Courtesy of Charalampos G. Chotzakoglou

According to the UNHCR, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 resulted in the expulsion of an estimated 180,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and villages in the north, while approximately 60,000 Turkish Cypriots were forced to flee from the south. To 'fill the void' left by the flight of the Cypriot Greeks and consolidate a new state to which the expelled "Other" could not return, Turkey encouraged the migration of an estimated 30-45,000 settlers from Anatolia to northern Cyprus (Jensehaugen 2017; Navaro-Yashin 2012).

The Turkish army in the north of the island took control of over one hundred known archaeological sites, over five hundred churches, chapels, and monasteries, and four castles (Jansen 2005, 18). Throughout the 1970s and later, looting of movable property ensued at the hands of Turkish officers, Turkish Cypriots, and Turkish settlers from the mainland (Navaro-Yashin 2012, 152-157). The Turkish Cypriot term used for the looting of abandoned properties, *ganimet*, is an "affectively charged concept" that implies self-criticism for a "morally problematic social practice" (ibid, 152-153). People plundered not only goods from abandoned Greek Cypriot houses, shops, factories, and farms, but from churches, museums, and archaeological sites in what Sam Hardy has called "one of the most methodical cultural asset-strippings in the world" (Hardy 2014, 83; Jansen 2005). After the initial wave of opportunistic looting, professional smugglers and antiquities dealers stepped in (Jansen 2005), linked to what Hardy has called the "deep state economy" in northern Cyprus. International markets, already inundated with Cypriot icons and antiquities since the 1960s, experienced another deluge, now including frescoes and mosaics removed from churches and monasteries (Jansen 2005).

Holy Virgin Akentou, Lefka, Northern Cyprus.
Photo Courtesy of Charalampos G. Chotzakoglou

In addition to looting, cultural destruction took several other forms in the decades after the war, unchecked by an unenforced antiquities law (Jansen 2005, 27). A full, systematic assessment was only possible after the opening of the checkpoints at the border in 2003, when all Cypriots were able to travel to the other side of the island, but journalists had been reporting on the damage for years (Flagellum Dei 1993). Many churches, monasteries, and historic buildings in the north were deliberately demolished, while others were simply neglected, left to fall into ruin. Some analysts have attributed the decay of heritage sites to the constraints on Turkish Cypriot heritage professionals caused by a lack of resources, the "legal limbo" of the unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), and the insufficiencies of international legal instruments like the 1954 Hague Convention (Hardy 2014, 83, 96; Şevketoğlu, et al. 2015). According to the 2003 survey published by Chotzakoglou (2008), at least 17 churches were re-used as stables or chicken coops.* In at least another 20 cases, churches were re-purposed as storerooms or granaries. Approximately 40 churches and monasteries were turned into military camps or hospitals for Turkish forces. Under the TRNC's 1975 Abandoned Immovable Property Law, all ecclesiastical Christian properties passed to the ownership of the unrecognized state (Hardy 2014, 87), which has since sold or rented former church properties to Turkish or European buyers. In at least 33 cases, the new owners of the properties have converted them into art studios, workshops, residences, cafes, cultural centers, gyms, storage facilities, car mechanic, hotels, restaurant/club, theaters, baths, sports clubs, dance schools, offices, garages, and even a mortuary. The antiquities department converted approximately nine churches into icon museums in a display of "tolerance" (Constantinou, et al. 2012, 179). In approximately 77 cases, churches located in town centers were converted into mosques, some of which were subsequently left vacant when new mosques were built in response to Greek-Cypriot grievance and international pressure (Chotzakoglou 2008, 50; Constantinou, et al. 2012, 181-3).† In some cases, village churches remained structurally "intact and well maintained," even if Islamic symbols had replaced Christian icons (Constantinou, et al. 2012, 180). Despite these disturbing statistics, it is important to also note that restorations and interethnic cooperation around cultural heritage have also taken place, and scholarship has brought nuanced perspectives to the politics of heritage in the Cyprus conflict (Constantinou, et al. 2012; Constantinou and Hatay 2010).

Sheep in St. John Church, Rizokarpaso, Northern Cyprus.
Photo Courtesy of Charalampos G. Chotzakoglou

Turkish-Cypriot heritage in the south has also suffered grave losses, at least since the burning of Turkish-Cypriot villages in the late 1950s, and the Greek Cypriot attacks on Turkish Cypriots in 1963 that drove the latter from their ancestral villages into segregated enclaves (Navaro-Yashin 2012, 12). After the 1974 invasion, numerous mosques and cemeteries were torched, demolished, or vandalized and ruined. A comprehensive, English-language scholarly assessment of impacts has yet to be published, but a partial report produced by the unrecognized TRNC (2006) indicates that at least 10 mosques were destroyed, seven damaged, and several neglected. That same report noted the destruction of at least 34 Turkish-Cypriot cemeteries, and damage to at least 19 more. Tombs and mausolea were also destroyed or damaged. Villages such as Alihodes were demolished (Constantinou and Hatay 2010). Hardy (2014, 82) notes that these episodes differ from the "*programmatic demolitions*" (original emphasis) in the north. In general, the Republic of Cyprus "has been comparatively more careful than the Turkish-Cypriot side in seeking to symbolically protect and reconstruct the 'Turkish' ethno-religious heritage. In order to emphasize the destruction of 'Greek' ethnoreligious heritage in the north, Greek Cypriots have made some efforts to preserve Turkish-Cypriot mosques in the south, and have also highlighted that preservation in their own official propaganda" (Constantinou and Hatay 2010, 1614).

* We use the past tense in recognition of the fact that the disposition of heritage structures may have changed since the fieldwork was conducted by a team of scholars supported by the Museum of the Kykkos Monastery, soon after the opening of the checkpoints in 2003.
† This figure of 77, derived from Chotzakoglou (2008), is considerably higher than the 48 church-to-mosque conversions provided by a former mufti and cited in (Constantinou, et al. 2012, 80).

COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION

Palestinians, Cypriots, and Azerbaijanis have all endured grave losses of heritage as a result of displacement and dispossession. Quantitative comparison is possible to some extent, particularly between Israel and Nagorno-Karabakh. For example, it is evident that the rate of outright destruction is far higher in the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War as compared to the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, with an estimated 71% (n=100) of mosques in Palestinian villages destroyed, versus just 13% (n=8) of the mosques in the towns, cities, and villages surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh.* Also notable is the large number of Azerbaijani heritage sites that CHW assesses as structurally unchanged since the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (42 sites, or 38%), a statistic that we cannot compare with either the Cypriot or Israel/Palestine contexts given the datasets available at the time of this report. In both the abandoned Palestinian and Azerbaijani settlements, the majority of surviving Muslim heritage sites are in damaged condition (major or minor). Twenty of the 140 extant mosques (14%) were in ruins at the time of Khalidi's fieldwork as compared to 48 damaged sites (44%) in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. Quantitative comparison is not possible with Northern Cyprus with respect to damage, but here too, many churches and cemeteries were damaged more or less severely due to looting, vandalism, or neglect.

But of greater interest than the quantitative comparisons are the qualitative similarities and differences that shed light on distinct patterns in the politics of heritage in post-war contexts, and the impact of ethnic conflict on abandoned cultural landscapes. In Northern Cyprus, the value that was mined from abandoned cultural landscapes and historic structures resided in the age value of antiquities and religious icons and frescoes that could be commodified on the antiquities market; in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenians appear to have discovered exchange value in raw materials, particularly metal roofs perhaps destined for the scrap metal market. There is currently limited verifiable evidence of Azerbaijani cultural artifacts circulating from Nagorno-Karabakh onto the global antiquities market (but there is an awareness that the 2020 war may stimulate a flow of looted materials).

The opportunistic nature of the damage to Azerbaijani heritage sites in and around Nagorno-Karabakh between 1994 and 2020, coupled with the limited cases of outright destruction, clearly indicates that the authorities of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic did not pursue a policy of systematic cultural erasure. In Nagorno-Karabakh, there is no evidence of the hand of the state in the impacts suffered by heritage sites; rather, the problem is precisely the state's absence: the failure of de facto Armenian authorities to safeguard the abandoned heritage properties from looters who, in most cases, appear to have damaged monuments not because they were heritage sites of an enemy "Other" but because they possessed fungible economic resources.

The most notable difference among the three cases under examination here is the relatively limited reuse, renovation, and restoration of Azerbaijani heritage structures by Armenians. While in all three cases, some of the sacred sites of the "Other" have been desecrated through reuse as animal shelters, Azerbaijani heritage sites have otherwise not been repurposed to any appreciable degree. CHW has documented only two such instances of renovation, both in Shusha, the only region under the control of the de facto authorities that witnessed significant Armenian resettlement after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War: the transformation of the Taza Mahalla Mosque (N.347) into a geological museum and the repurposing of the Saatli Mosque (N.355). In addition, one mosque underwent a controversial restoration (Upper Govhar Agha Mosque, N.344). None of

* The rate of destruction goes up to 16 sites, or 15% percent of the sites whose condition we were able to assess, if Azerbaijani mausolea and historical cemeteries are included.

the Azerbaijani mosques were converted into Armenian churches, in contrast to the widespread "Judaization" of Muslim holy places between 1948 and 1967 (Bar 2018), and the pervasive conversion of churches into mosques in Northern Cyprus. And it appears that virtually none of the Azerbaijani monuments had been put to commercial or military purposes, once again in contrast to both Mediterranean cases. In light of the relatively few instances of restoration, renovation, and reuse, it appears that Armenians accorded Azerbaijani heritage low reuse value or were rather indifferent to its presence.

The most salient factor to explain the differences in the fate of abandoned heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh, Israel/Palestine, and Cyprus is the degree to which the victors in the armed conflicts sought to consolidate a new state through settler colonialism and the appropriation of properties and landscapes. Notwithstanding important differences in the settler colonial projects in Israel and northern Cyprus (see Jensehaugen 2017), in both cases large-scale settlement in abandoned landscapes was 'successful' state policy, encouraged and organized by government institutions allocating land, housing, and resources (Benvenisti 2002; Navaro-Yashin 2012). In both Israel and Northern Cyprus, laws were enacted that nationalized abandoned properties and allowed for their disbursement or sale to new settlers, including cultural properties that were inadequately protected by antiquities and heritage laws.

In contrast, over the course of three decades, Armenians did not settle in large numbers in the seven territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh ceded to Azerbaijan in 2020, even if the geopolitical culture in Armenian society supported a "cartographic exhibitionism" that imagined a maximalist Armenian territory (Broers and Toal 2013, 26). Two fact-finding missions conducted by the OSCE found that the settler population ranged from 9,000-12,000 in 2005, growing to approximately 14,000 by 2010. This settlement was largely concentrated in the Lachin and Kalbajar regions immediately adjacent to Armenia (Broers 2021, 271-272). Beside Lachin, resettlement also occurred elsewhere in what was considered the Kashatagh district, in Zangilan and Qubadli. During the Syrian Civil War, the resettlement of Syrian-Armenian refugees in the territories around Nagorno-Karabakh appears to have been negligible, estimated as of 2013 at about 90 people, or some 30 families (ibid). Despite the efforts of the de facto authorities to incentivize settlement (especially in Lachin) through start-up disbursements and monthly payments per child, they were unable to attract large numbers of Armenian settlers to "the wild frontier of Armenian nationalism" (Broers 2021, 272, 274). In fact, the demographic records of the unrecognized state indicate stagnant or declining populations in Shahumyan and Kashatagh provinces, respectively (ibid). The OSCE's finding of limited Armenian settlement is borne out by our own analysis of the satellite imagery, which shows little evidence for significant occupation in most of the seven territories other than the region then known as Kashatagh. Amidst the ruins of a countryside shattered by war, we see only small-scale agro-pastoral activity in a few isolated places. In so many respects, what Yael Navaro-Yashin has theorized as the "make-believe", "phantasmic state" of Northern Cyprus – simultaneously a material reality and a phantasm – is equally apt for the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, where the limited population further reveals the phantasmagoric qualities of the material reality. In sum, limited Armenian settlement and the attendant lack of development in the seven territories likely inadvertently protected Azerbaijani heritage from the more severe impacts documented in the cases of Northern Cyprus and Israel/Palestine.

Finally, the three cases under examination here can be compared with respect to the prospects for heritage preservation, and its capacity to bring about positive change in post-conflict societies. In the absence of sovereign statehood, numerous Palestinian heritage initiatives have taken shape through the actions of NGOs, religious organizations, and the

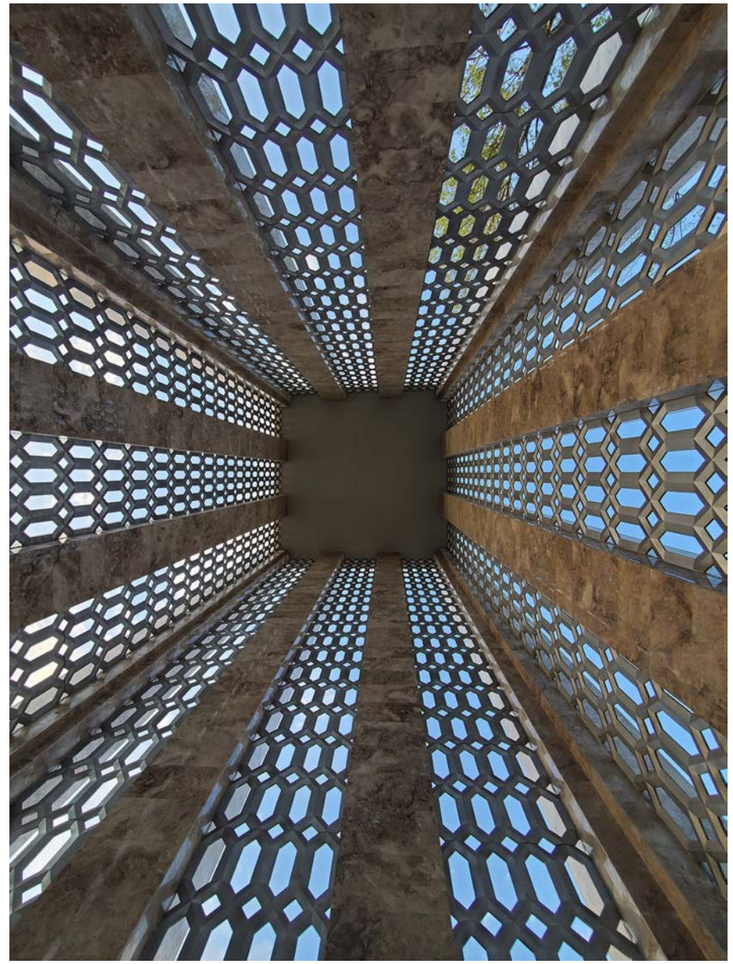
Palestinian Authority (De Cesari 2019). In the West Bank, Palestinian heritage-making by non-governmental groups has focused on improving socioeconomic conditions through urban regeneration of the vernacular past, including homes, shops and schools. Beyond the West Bank, a religious organization called the Al-Aqsa Foundation plays a leading role in Palestinian heritage-making, maintaining, restoring, and rebuilding the remains of Palestinian mosques, shrines, and cemeteries in the post-1948 abandoned villages (ibid. 196-199). These examples are notable because they show that heritage work (particularly in the West Bank) can bring about meaningful social change when conducted outside of state institutions.

But it is the case of Cyprus that is particularly instructive for the Caucasus, for while the conflict remains intractable and the political divide firmly rooted, bicommunal heritage restoration efforts are promoting cooperation and reconciliation (Kassinis 2015; Reid 2021). The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage on Cyprus (TCCH) is a bicommunal organization founded in 2008 that has conserved and restored over fifty-five cultural heritage sites on the island, including churches, mosques, and other archaeological sites (Reid 2021). TCCH involves archaeologists, architects, art historians, and town planners from both communities in the process of site selection and implementation. Education and community engagement are core aspects of TCCH's mandate. With support from the EU and other funders, TCCH harnesses heritage conservation to support the peace-building process. The TCCH's efforts exist in parallel with the grassroots work of Greek Cypriots, who have been maintaining, cleaning, and purifying profaned religious sites on their pilgrimages to the north since the opening of the checkpoints in 2003 (Dikomitis 2012, 102-111).

It is, of course, highly significant that most of the mosques and mausolea in and around Nagorno-Karabakh are sufficiently intact to allow for restoration. Indeed, restoration projects have already been launched at Vagif Mausoleum (N.367), Upper Govhar Agha Mosque (N.344), and Saatli Mosque (N.355), and are planned for Aghdam/Juma Mosque (N.202) and Giyasly Mosque (N.4052). But even as restorations proceed and the threat to Azerbaijani cultural heritage in Karabakh recedes, scores of Armenian churches, monasteries, and historic cemeteries in territories now under Azerbaijani jurisdiction face threats of appropriation, damage, and destruction. The controversial removal of the dome from the Armenian cathedral of Ghazanchetsots has already raised concerns regarding Azerbaijan's approach to heritage preservation writ large. Indeed, CHW continues to closely monitor Armenian medieval and early modern heritage currently at risk in Azerbaijan, maintaining our interactive dashboard and releasing regular reports documenting instances of damage, destruction, and heightened threats. In the summer of 2022, we documented the destruction of an 18th-19th century Armenian church in the village of Susanliq/Mokhrenes. There is thus considerable danger that the next decade in Azerbaijani-controlled Karabakh will witness the juxtaposition of Azerbaijani heritage restoration with Armenian heritage destruction. Such an unraveling of the region's cultural landscape would only make the heritage politics of the region worse, further jeopardizing the fragile remains of the region's past. A bicommunal organization of scholars, practitioners, and religious leaders committed to protecting and preserving Azerbaijani and Armenian heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions, on the model of TCCH, has greater potential to foster meaningful steps toward peace-building and regional prosperity than top-down ministerial restoration initiatives. So, too, would granting Armenians secure access to the sacred and ancestral heritage sites that they were forced to abandon, as is now possible in Cyprus.

Abuses of Azerbaijani and Armenian cultural heritage between the First and Second Nagorno-Karabakh Wars were real events, and not merely the fabrications of propaganda

machines. They are also profoundly unequal in their severity. Armenian cultural heritage under Azerbaijani control, especially in Nakhchivan, has suffered far greater physical and symbolic violence than Azerbaijani heritage under Armenian jurisdiction. This is not to excuse any of the abuses. They are all deplorable, but they are not commensurable. Cultural heritage has emerged as a powerful weapon in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, a weapon deployed by nationalists, chauvinists, and cynical propagandists to incite hatred and advance political objectives while eroding the prospects for a sustainable peace. This fact-starved vitriol serves only to make the tangible cultural heritage of both communities less secure by undermining a common respect for the material remains of the past and centering the conflict on the fragile matter of the heritage-scape The preservation of Armenian and Azerbaijani cultural heritage should instead become a common ground, not merely for replacing stones, preserving inscriptions, cleaning ruins, and competing over historical primacy, but for mutual recognition through grassroots, bicommunal social action.



Vagif Mausoleum (N.367). Image: Wikimedia

RESEARCH **METHODOLOGY**

CHW's methodology for this investigation consisted of two key components: 1) a database of Azerbaijani heritage sites compiled from official government listings, academic publications, cartographic sources, and public media sources, and 2) high-resolution Cold War-era declassified satellite imagery and publicly available modern satellite imagery that can allow for precise geolocation and condition assessments as well as aid in the approximate dating of destruction events.

It is important to note that in academic parlance, there is a significant difference between Azerbaijani heritage and the heritage of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani heritage refers specifically to the material and intangible legacy of the Turkic communities of the region (see inset box on p. 15). The heritage of Azerbaijan refers to the heritage of all ethnic and religious groups that falls under the stewardship responsibility of the modern Republic of Azerbaijan.

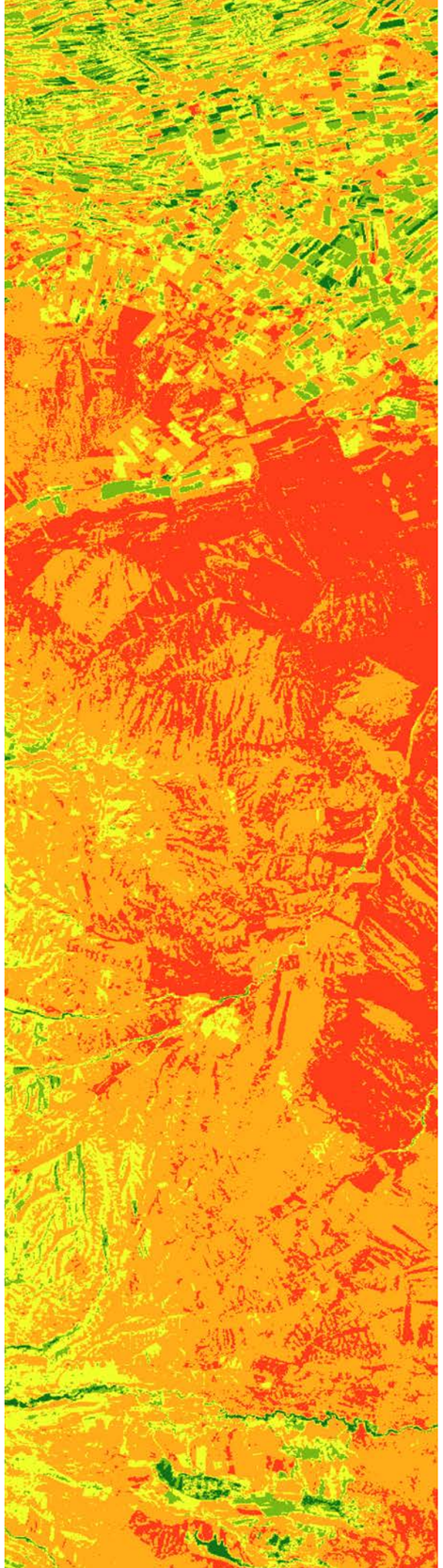
	Qubadlı rayonu		
4696.	Bulaq	XIX əsr	Əliquluuşağı kəndi
4697.	Bulaq		Əliquluuşağı kəndi
4698.	"Qalalı" qalası		Əliquluuşağı kəndi
4699.	"Qalalı" qalası (yeraltı keçidlə)	V əsr	Muradxanlı kəndi
4700.	Şirin bulaq		Məmər kəndi
4701.	Bulaq	XIX əsr	Dəmirçilər kəndi
4702.	Məbəd bulağı	XIX əsr	Mahmudlu kəndi
4703.	Məscid	XIX əsr	Dəmirçilər kəndi
4704.	Məscid	XIX əsr	Dondarlı kəndi
4705.	Hacıbədəl körpüsü		Dondarlı kəndi
4706.	Cavanşirin türbəsi	XIV əsr	Yazı düzü
4707.	"Qalacid" qalası		Xocamusaxlı kəndi
4708.	Türbə	XVIII əsr	Xocamusaxlı kəndi
4709.	Məscid	XVIII əsr	Yusifbəyli kəndi
4710.	Türbə	XVIII əsr	Boyunəgər kəndi
4711.	Məscid	XVIII əsr	Mollalı kəndi
4712.	Məscid	XVIII əsr	Mirlər kəndi
4713.	Məscid	XVIII əsr	Məmər kəndi
4714.	Məscidin qalıqları	XV–XVI əsrlər	Xələc kəndi
4715.	Məbəd		Məzrə kəndi
4716.	Məscid	XIX əsr	Mahrızlı kəndi
4717.	Körpü	XIX əsr	Mahmudlu kəndi

Figure 1. The Qubatly district section of the list of heritage sites of Azerbaijan with inventory number, type, date, and local village. Entries in red are in CHW's database.

GEODATABASE DEVELOPMENT

The baseline source for CHW's database of the Azerbaijani heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories is the supplement No. 1 to the decision No. 132 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dating to August 2, 2001, which lists all heritage sites under state protection (fig. 1).* Based on the supplement, CHW identified 112 mosques, mausolea, and historic cemeteries (pre-dating the 19th century) located in the region administered by the NKR from 1994-2020. In addition to these 112 sites, CHW identified an additional 32 mosques, mausolea, and historic cemeteries using information provided by the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Karabakh Center project, the Ministry of Culture of the unrecognized NKR and various academic publications and cartographic sources. Islamic heritage sites are significantly underrepresented on the official monument lists of the NKR, which was compiled before the 2020 war, but we nevertheless consulted this resource as well. The integration of all these sources resulted in a dataset composed of 146 Azerbaijani cultural heritage sites, including 75 mosques, 55 mausoleums, and 15 cemeteries (see Chart 1).

* Beginning in the late Soviet years, the state approved heritage inventories on April 2, 1968 (decision #140 of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic), May 14, 1981 (decision #225 of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic), April 27, 1988 (decision #145 of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic), and August 2, 2001 (decision #132 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan).



Geolocation

Once the sample of 146 sites was defined, CHW's lead researcher for this investigation, Dr. Husik Ghulyan, transformed the inventory into a structured geodatabase. This required geolocating each site with exacting precision to determine its geographic coordinates. These coordinates then allowed us to assess changes in the condition of each heritage site using historical satellite imagery. The only locational information provided in the official state list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the village name, city name, or, in a few cases, a geographic area. The same is true for the other sources that CHW consulted to create the database, with the exception of Soviet-era topographic maps. In order to geolocate the 146 sites in our database, we used four main sources: photographs and videos, topographic maps, scholarly publications, and satellite images.

Photographs & Videos

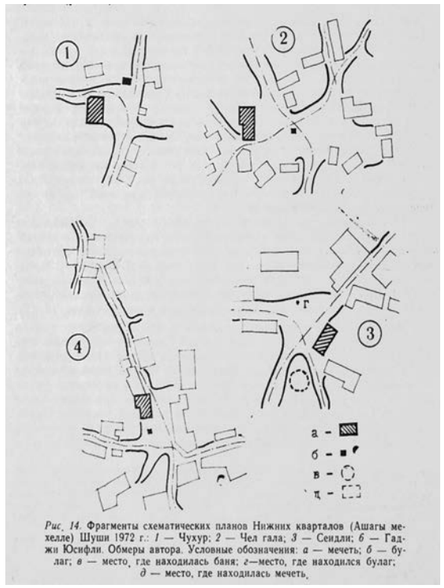


Рис. 14. Фрагменты схематических планов Нижних кварталов (Ашагы мехелле) Шуши 1972 г.: *1* — Чухур; *2* — Чел гала; *3* — Сеидли; *б* — Гаджи Юсифли. Обмеры автора. Условные обозначения: *а* — мечеть; *б* — булаг; *в* — место, где находилась баня; *г*—место, где находился булаг; *д* — место, где находилась мечеть.

Figure 2. Sketches from a Soviet scholarly publication showing the location of several mosques in Shusha city.

Since the official registry of heritage sites of Azerbaijan does not provide precise locational information, photographs and videos were the most important source for geolocating the monuments and cemeteries in the database. CHW first tried to obtain images of the sites that pre-date the First Nagorno-Karabakh War. The old images were helpful both for geolocation, and to determine the baseline condition of the sites prior to the outbreak of the first war. In some cases, the old images were also helpful for disambiguating monuments that are closely located to one another, since the official registry mentions several sites (e.g., mausolea) in close proximity. But most photographic and video evidence that CHW used for geolocation purposes were those post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War. Numerous images and videos disseminated on social media and news sources about villages that had been transferred to Azerbaijani control after the 2020 war allowed CHW to precisely locate the sites and understand their most recent condition. As a part of geolocation, Dr. Ghulyan examined hundreds of hours of video footage and thousands of photographs captured and taken after the 2020 ceasefire in order to identify the relevant sites and geolocate them on satellite imagery. Photographs were also an important source for identifying additional mosques and mausolea that are absent in the official registries of heritage sites and thereby expanding CHW's database.

Scholarly Publications

CHW used scholarly publications to obtain additional locational information, archival images, sketches, plans, information on site condition, and other important attributes of entities in our database (fig. 2). For example, Dr. Ghulyan was able to disambiguate closely located mausolea by referring to their Soviet-era images and descriptions found in Soviet and Azerbaijani scholarly publications (e.g. Panah Ali Khan Mausoleum, Ibrahim Khalil Khan Mausoleum, Ughurlu Bey Mausoleum).

Topographic Sources

In some instances, topographic sources (e.g., fig. 3) allowed for the approximate geolocation of sites, after which CHW obtained the precise coordinates using historical and modern satellite imagery. Topographic sources also helped us to identify several mausolea that are not on the official registries. CHW's research drew mostly on 1:25K and 1:50K scale topographic maps produced between the 1950s and the 1980s by the General Staff of the Soviet Army and the Main Department of the Geodesy and Cartography of the Ministers' Council of the USSR.

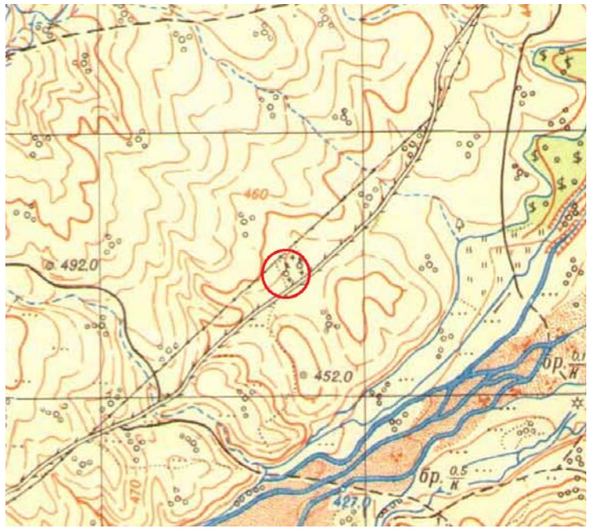


Figure 3. A 1:25K scale Soviet topographic map showing the location of a destroyed mausoleum near the village of Gyzyl Kangarli (Aghdam district).

Satellite Imagery

Satellite imagery was the most important source for establishing high-precision coordinates. CHW made extensive use of the most recent satellite imagery, as well as historical satellite imagery gathered by Maxar Technologies, CNES, and Airbus, and publicly available through the Google Earth platform. Satellite imagery also allowed us to assess the changes in the condition of heritage sites over time and the approximate period of impacts.

For condition assessment purposes, as a baseline source CHW turned to declassified imagery captured by the KH-9 Hexagon satellite, a photographic reconnaissance program launched by the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office between 1971 and 1986. The ground resolution of the Hexagon high-resolution cameras was 2-4 feet (0.6-1.2m). The KH-9 archive was declassified in September 2011, making a vast trove of spatial imagery available to researchers, including a large corpus of materials documenting the territory of the former Soviet Union in its final decades. It is available to the public through the USGS's EarthExplorer site.

We georeferenced Hexagon photographs in ArcGIS Pro using ESRI's satellite base layer imagery. The resolution of the Hexagon imagery is more than adequate for discerning large built structures, such as mosques and mausoleums. But cemeteries proved more difficult for our baseline assessments. Since the Hexagon imagery used in our investigation has a resolution of 0.6-1.2m, features less than 1.5m or so wide can sometimes be difficult to discern. Cemeteries thus pose a challenge to satellite investigations since an individual tombstone might provide a lateral extent well under a meter. However, relatively large fields of burial monuments are discernible in satellite imagery, as they produce patterns of light and shadow that result in a stippling effect on the terrain or, in some cases, a jagged effect very distinct from the surrounding ground cover.

Figure 4. KH-9 Hexagon satellite image showing the destroyed Rzaqulu Bey Mausoleum near the village of Dudukchu (Khojavend district) on July 3, 1980.

In cases where sites could not be confidently located with precision on archival or modern historical satellite resources, that is, in cases when CHW was unable to locate the sites and obtain visual proof of their existence, we designated them as "unlocated". We assessed 30 of the 146 entities in our dataset (20%) as unlocated. If any of them come to be located following the completion of this report, we will update our results.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

CHW's assessments are based on visual comparisons between the condition of sites as visible in historical baseline imagery and in recent satellite imagery, photographs, and videos. It is important to emphasize that our assessments refer to the *structural* condition of heritage sites, as this can be determined from satellite images and the other image sources available to us. Certain forms of damage, such as the elimination of inscriptions or decorative elements, bullet holes, decay, and erosion are beyond the scope of this investigation. We used seven assessment categories, defined as follows:

Unchanged denotes a heritage site that has not changed appreciably since the late Soviet period. To qualify as unchanged, a site must have maintained the same structural form between the First and Second Nagorno-Karabakh wars, even if time and neglect have allowed it to fall into some minor disrepair. In most cases, heritage sites that are unchanged are well-preserved (see Site Inventory). But the assessment category also includes mosques or mausolea that were already damaged in the late Soviet years, such as Yenikend Tomb (N.393), Sharifan Mausoleum and Tomb (N.394 and N.1824), Boyahmadli Mosque (N.4054), Shykhlar Mausoleum (N.4166), Garghabazar Mausoleum (N.4213), Garygyshlag Mosque (N.4733), two mausolea in Shusha (N.5042, NA.20), Mir Mehdi Khazani Mausoluem (NA.04), and a Tomb in Aghdam (NA.30). These sites are unchanged as they do not appear to have suffered any further damage while under the administration of the unrecognized NKR.

Indications of **Minor Damage** include impacts to exterior facades or decorative elements but the structural integrity of the building or site remains preserved (e.g., Aghdam Mosque, N.2020, Gurjulu Maosoleum, N.307, Gochahmadli Mosque, N.4233, Chol Gala Mosque, N.5103). Other forms of minor damage include a small hole in a roof (Kar Gunbaz Mausoleum, N.312, Abdal Mosque, NA.09), damage to a wall (Mammadbeyli Mausoleum, N.391), or limited encroachment on the territory of a cemetery (N.5751).

An assessment of **Major Damage** indicates that a heritage site has sustained significant impacts since the late Soviet years that have compromised its architectural integrity. In the case of mosques, major damage typically entailed the removal of roofs, which resulted in significant impacts on the structure and its interior (e.g., Dashkasan Mosque, N.4172, Gejagozlu Mosque, N.4223, Qajar Mosque, N.4216). In the case of mausolea, major damage denotes significant impacts to the dome, roof, and sometimes the walls of the structure (e.g., Melik Ajdar Mausoleum, N.311, Panah Ali Khan Mausoleum, N.4027, Khanazur Mausoleum, NA.15). Major damage to historic cemeteries denotes the visible disturbance of tombstones or excavations in the territory of the site that clearly impact buried remains (e.g., Papravand Cemetery, N.5750, Karkhulu Cemetery, N.5791, Imarat Cemetery, NA.25).

CHW assesses locations as **Destroyed** when virtually nothing remains of a heritage site that was still standing in the late Soviet years. It has either been stripped to its foundations (e.g., Papy Mosque, N.4171, Pirahmadli Mosque, N.4239); completely erased (Mardinli Mosque, N.5077; Haji Yusifli Mosque, N.5089; Julfalar Mosque, N.5092; mausoleum in Aghdam, NA.26); burned (Garaaghach Cemetery, NA.27); or reduced to rubble (such as three mausolea in Aghdam, N.4056, N.4057, N.4058, the Haji Alakbar Mosque N.4208, Sary Masyg Mausoleum, N.4726, Kocharli Mosque, N.5145, Rzaqulu Mausoleum, NA.02).

A limited number of sites were **Renovated** to serve a different purpose, as was the case at the Taza Mahalla Mosque (N.347) and the Saatli Mosque (N.355).

Only a single site in CHW's database was **Restored** such that the building was repaired while retaining its original function: the Upper Govhar Agha Mosque (N.344).

In some cases, CHW was unable to make a determination concerning the changing condition of the heritage site with the sources of evidence available to us. These sites were classified as **Indeterminate**.

SITE
DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY OF **ASSESSED SITES**

UNCHANGED SITES

Khachin-Darbatli Mausoleum (N.5)
Mirali Mausoleum (N.205)
Khojaly Mausoleum (N.252)
Damirchilar Mausoleum No.2 (N.309)
Yenikend Tomb (N.393)
Sharifan Mausoleum (N.394; N.1824)
Ibrahim Khalil Khan Mausoleum (N.4028)
Mehdigulu Khan Javanshir Mausoleum (N.4029)
Boyahmadli Mosque (N.4054)
Mausoleum (N.4055)
Khubyarly Mausoleum - Round Mausoleum (N.4164)
Khubyarly Mausoleum - Octagonal Mausoleum (N.4165)
Shykhlar Mausoleum - Round Mausoleum (N.4166)
Dagh Tumas Mausoleum (N.4169)
Chalabilar Mosque (N.4170)
Haji Giyaseddin Mosque (N.4212)
Garghabazar Mausoleum (N.4213)
Juma Mosque (N.4220)
Imamzadeh Mausoleum (N.4222)
Yukhary Seyidahmadli Mausoleum (N.4226)
Sardarli Mosque (N.4231)
Garadaghly Mosque (N.4237)
Damirchilar Mosque (N.4703)
Dondarly Mosque (N.4704)
Khodzhamusakhly Mausoleum (N.4708)
Yusifbeyli Mosque (N.4709)
Khalaj Mosque (N.4714)
Garygyshlag Mosque (N.4733)
Mausoleum (N.5042)
Haji Abbas Mosque (N.5073)
Seyidli Mosque (N.5151)
Mamay Mosque (N.5166)
Jijimli Mosque (NA.03)
Mir Mehdi Khazani Mausoleum (NA.04)
Mausoleum (NA.11)
Mausoleum (NA.20)
Mausoleum (NA.21)
Mausoleum (NA.22)
Mausoleum (NA.23)
Tomb (NA30)
Shahbulaq Mosque (NA32)

MINOR DAMAGE SITES

Aghdam Mosque (N.202)
Gurjulu Mausoleum (N.307)
Kar Gunbaz Mausoleum (N.312)
Mammadbeyli Mausoleum (N.391)
Cemetery (N.1454)
Gochahmadli Mosque (N.4233)
Chol Gala Mosque (N.5103)
Cemetery (N.5751)
Abdal Mosque (NA.09)

MAJOR DAMAGE SITES

Melik Ajdar Mausoleum (N.311)
Lower Govhar Agha Mosque (N.345)
Vagif Mausoleum (N.367)
Panah Ali Khan Mausoleum (N.4027)
Mosque (N.4046)
Giyasly Mosque (N.4052)
Dashkasan Mosque (N.4172)
Suleymanly Mosque (N.4174)
Dadali Mosque (N.4214)
Qajar Mosque (N.4216)

Merdinli Mosque (N.4217)
Mosque (N.4221)
Gejagozlu Mosque (N.4223)
Karakhanbeyli Mosque (N.4240)
Boyunakyar Mausoleum (N.4710)
Mirlar Mosque (N.4712)
Mamar Mosque (N.4713)
Mosque (N.4716)
Pichanis Mosque (N.4736)
Chukhur Mahalla Mosque (N.5068)
Khoja Marjanli Mosque (N.5137)
Zangilan Mosque (N.5287)
Malatkeshin Mosque (N.5288)
Girag Mushlan Mosque (N.5289)
Cemetery (N.5750)
Cemetery (N.5791)
Mosque (NA.01)
Shafibeyli Mosque (NA.05)
Babayli Mosque (NA.06)
Genlik Mosque (NA.07)
Udgun Mosque (NA.08)
Yusifjanly Mosque (NA.10)
Gulably Mosque (NA.12)
Shikhbabaly Mosque (NA.13)
Merzili Mosque (NA.14)
Khanazur Mausoleum (NA.15)
Razdara Mosque (NA.16)
Bashlibel Mosque (NA.17)
Imarat Cemetery (NA.25)

DESTROYED SITES

Mausoleum (N.4044)
Bashsyz Mosque (N.4045)
Mausoleum (N.4056)
Mausoleum (N.4057)
Ughurlu Bey Mausoleum (N.4058)
Papy Mosque (N.4171)
Haji Alakbar Mosque (N.4208)
Pirahmadli Mosque (N.4239)
Sary Ashyg Mausoleum (N.4726)
Mardinli Mosque (N.5077)
Haji Yusifli Mosque (N.5089)
Julfalar Mosque (N.5092)
Kocharli Mosque (N.5145)
Rzaqulu Bey Mausoleum (NA.02)
Mausoleum (NA.26)
Garaaghach Cemetery (NA.27)

RENOVATED SITES

Taza Mahalla Mosque (N.347)
Saatli Mosque (N.355)

RESTORED SITES

Upper Govhar Agha Mosque (N.344)

INDETERMINATE SITES

Damirchilar Mausoleum No.1 (N.308)
Mausoleum (N.4043)
Malibeyli Mosque (N.5056)
Cemetery (N.5795)
Ashyg Cemetery (N.5923)
Cemetery (NA.18)
Cemetery (NA.19)

DIRECTORY OF **UNLOCATED SITES**

The list below includes the 29 sites in CHW's database that we were not able to geolocate for this investigation. In each case, we explain the obstacles we faced in locating the sites in the hopes that this information can assist others in their eventual geolocation. We invite public input, and will make every effort to incorporate newly geolocated heritage sites into our analysis if the evidence provided meets the rigorous standards of our research.

Heydar Mausoleum (N.340)
District: Shusha
City: Shusha
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 340, no date provided)

Geolocation: Although the official list indicates that Heydar Mausoleum is of "national significance", CHW was unable to find images or publications that would allow us to geolocate it. The mausoleum might correspond to one of the three mausolea northeast of Shusha (NA.20; NA.21; NA.22). Notably, this mausoleum is not included on the AzSSR 1988 list of heritage sites, known as "Resolution No 145 of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR dated April 27, 1988, on the approval of the historical and cultural monuments of the Azerbaijan SSR subject to state protection."

Tomb (N. 4030)
District: Agdam
City: Agdam
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4030, undated tomb)

Geolocation: According to the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this is a 15th-century structure. Without detailed locational information or photographic evidence, CHW was unable to locate the tomb, but it might correspond to one in the Imarat Cemetery of Agdam (NA.30).

Mausoleum (N. 4051)
District: Aghdam
Village: Maqsudlu
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4051, 18th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mausoleum (N. 4059)
District: Aghdam
Location: Garaaghach Cemetery
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4059, 19th c.)

Geolocation: CHW located and obtained visual evidence of three other mausolea (N.4056; N.4057; N.4058) in this cemetery, and identified this mausoleum on a 1:50K scale topographic map of 1981. But the mausoleum is not visible on either KH9 Hexagon imagery or on satellite images of the early 2000s. We were thus not able to assess its condition.

Mosque (N.4173)
District: Jabrayil
Villahe: Mazra
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4173, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mosque (N.4205)
District: Fuzuli
Village: Qorqan
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4205, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mosque (N.4225)
District: Fuzuli
Village: Yukhary Veysalli
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4225, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mosque (N.4227)
District: Fuzuli
Village: Ashaghy Dilagharda
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4227, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mosque (N.4228)
District: Fuzuli
Village: Gochahmadli
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4228, 18th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mausoleum (N.4238)
District: Fuzuli
Village: Zuzary Divanalylar
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4238, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mausoleum (N. 4317)
District: Khojavend
Town: Khojavand
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4317, 17th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mausoleum (N. 4352)
District: Khojavend
Village: Dollar
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4352, 12-14th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mausoleum (N. 4354)
District: Khojavend
Village: Khatek

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum. Interestingly, there is no Khatek village in the Khojavend district. This mausoleum might correspond to Rzaqulu Bey Mausoleum (NA.02) located in the village of Dudukchu in the same district.

Javanshir Mausoleum (N. 4706)
District: Qubadli
Location: Yazy duzu
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4706, 14th c.)

Geolocation: Two academic publications (Salamzade 1964, 53; Shcheblykin 1947, 160-161) mention this mausoleum as an already ruined structure. Moreover, one of those publications (Shcheblykin 1947, 160-161) mentions the existence of a large cemetery around the mausoleum. The mausoleum may be located cemetery N.1454. However, since it is a ruined structure and there are no photographs or videos, CHW was unable to determine a precise location.

Mosque (N. 4711)
District: Qubadli
Village: Mollaly
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4711, 18th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mosque.

Soltan Baba Mausoleum (N.4729)
District: Lachin
Village: Zeyva
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4729, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Sheykh Ahmad Mausoleum (N. 4730)
District: Lachin
Village: Zeyva
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4730, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Mausoleum (N. 4731)
District: Lachin
Village: Zeyva
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4731, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

"Aghbakht kheyr" Mausoleum (N. 4743)
District: Lachin
Village: Ahmadli
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4743)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mausoleum.

Guyulug Mosque (N. 5146)
District: Shusha
City: Shusha
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5146, 18th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mosque.

Mosque (N. 5292)
District: Zangilan
Village: Mushlan
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5292, 19th c.)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the mosque.

Cemetery (N.5790)
District: Jabrayil
City: Jabrayil
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5790)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the cemetery.

Cemetery (N.5792)
District: Jabrayil
Village: Sirik
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5792)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the cemetery.

Cemetery (N.5793)
District: Jabrayil
Location: Diridagh Mount
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5793)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the cemetery.

Cemetery (N. 5844)
District: Kurdamir
Location: 5-6km from Kasapet village
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5844)

Geolocation: According to the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the cemetery is located 5-6km from Kasapet village in Kurdamir district. However, the village of Kasapet is in the Tartar district. Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the cemetery.

Cemetery (N. 5924)
District: Lachin
Village: Abdallar
Source: List of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5924)

Geolocation: Without detailed locational information or photographs/videos, CHW was unable to locate the cemetery.

Mosque (NA.8)
District: Zangilan
Town: Minjivan
Source: Karabakh Center project

Geolocation: CHW was unable to locate the mosque, although a photograph was disseminated by Karabakh Center.

Mosque (NA.9)
District: Zangilan
Village: Saryl
Source: Karabakh Center project

Geolocation: CHW was unable to locate the mosque, although a photograph was disseminated by Karabakh Center.

Mosque (NA.10)
District: Fuzuli
Village: Ishikhly
Source: Karabakh Center project

Geolocation: CHW was unable to locate the mosque, although a photograph was disseminated by Karabakh Center.

Mosque (NA.16)
District: Aghdam
Village: Khirdirli
Source: Karabakh Center project

Geolocation: CHW was unable to locate the mosque, although a photograph was disseminated by Karabakh Center.

KHACHIN-DARBATLI MAUSOLEUM

Site N.5
40.03297500N / 46.816954E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Khachin-Darbatli, Khachin-Darbatli Mausoleum (also known as Kutlu Musa Mausoleum) is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5) as a 14th century monument (RALH 2001; Useinov et al. 1963, 149).

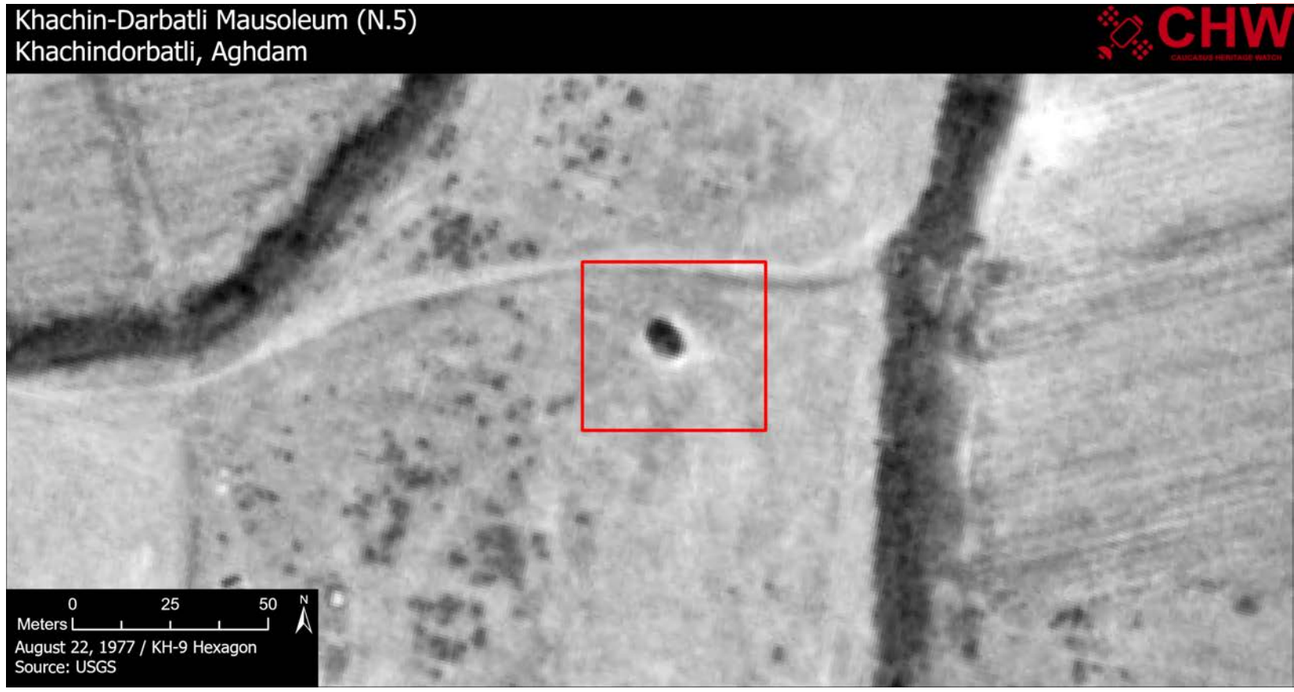
Image: Useinov, et al. 1963.

Designed by architect Ustad Shahenzi, the mausoleum was built in 1314. According to some Soviet and Azerbaijani scholars, the mausoleum reflects the relationship between the art of the Muslim and Christian regions of the Near East, southern Caucasus, and Asia Minor in its architecture and ornamentation. In particular, the decoration of the entrance and the design of the columns resemble elements of church architecture. In addition, images of engraved animals on the edges of the structure represent a departure from the decorative approaches on monuments of Azerbaijan and somewhat resemble the ornamentation of Geghard and Saghmosavank monasteries in Armenia. The mausoleum extends the creative relationships that find earlier expression in the mausoleum of Julfa (Jugha) in Nakhchivan (Useinov, et al. 1963, 153-156; Bretanitskii and Veimarn, 1976; Bretanitskii et al. 1942).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery of August 1977 (see right, top) and satellite imagery captured in September 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum is unchanged. Numerous images and videos post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm that the monument is well-preserved.

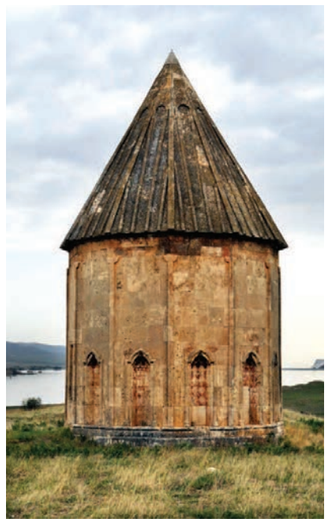
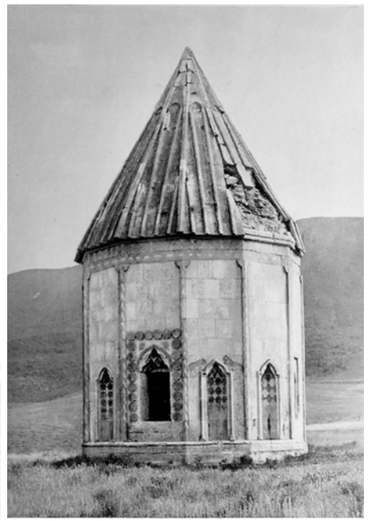
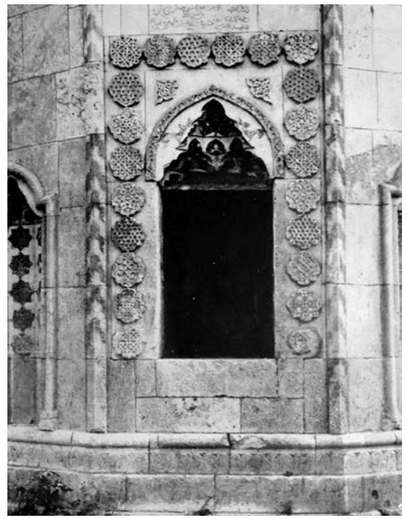
GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:50K scale Soviet topographic map of 1989 (see p. 50).



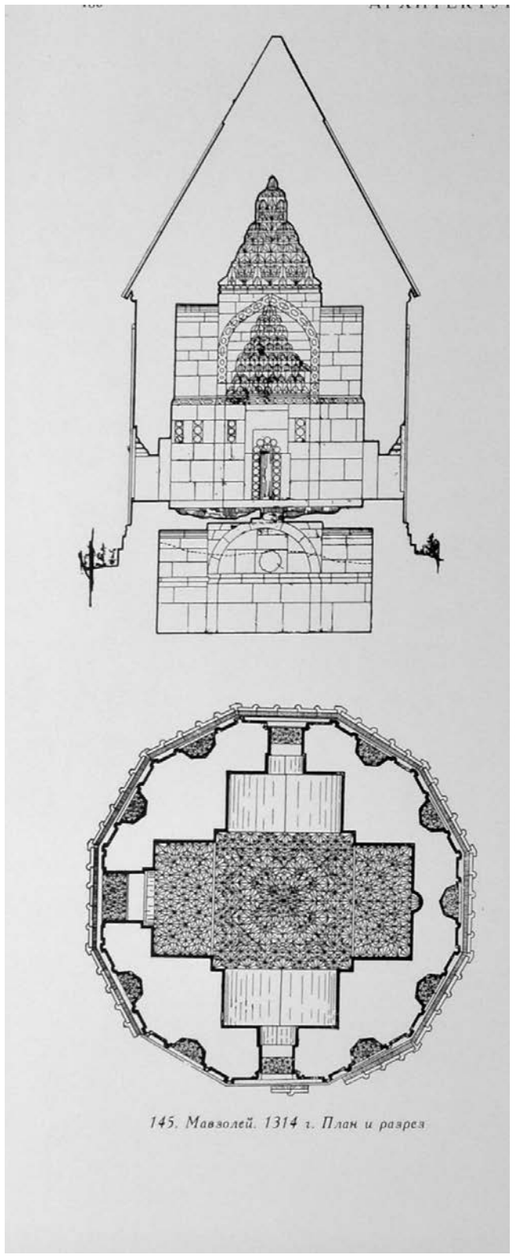
The mausoleum on a 1:50K scale map of 1989 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, K-38-142-G, 1:50,000).

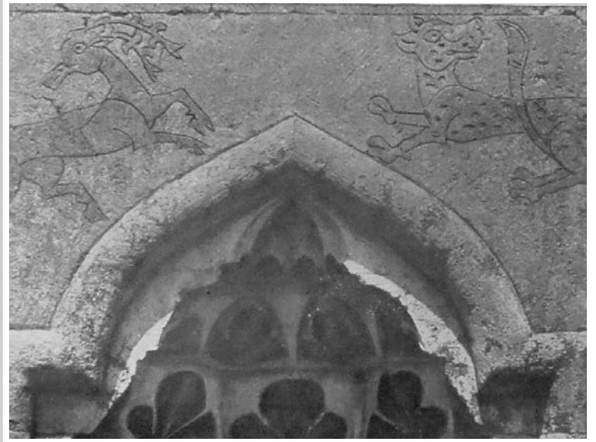
IMAGE GALLERY

Images: RAA 2010; Useinov, et al. 1963

IMAGE GALLERY





Images: Useinov, et al. 1963

AGHDAM MOSQUE

Site N.202
39.99331435N / 46.93158596E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Aghdam Mosque (or Juma Mosque) is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 202) with a construction date of 1868 (RAHL 2001).

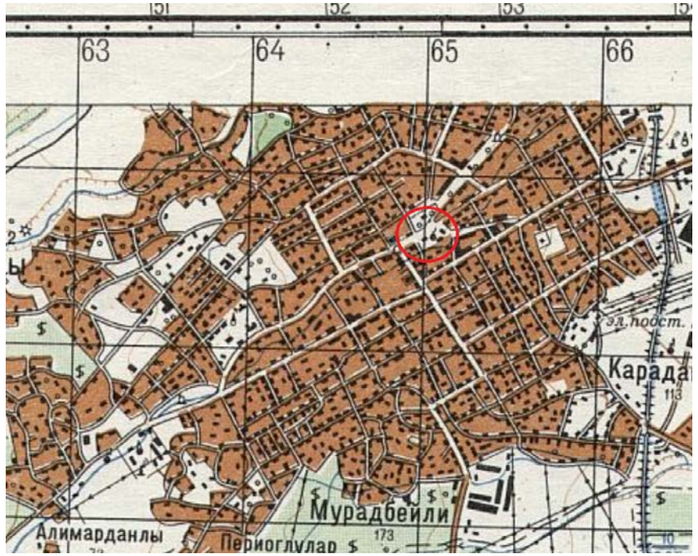
The mosque was conceived by Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi, the most prominent architect of Karabakh. The prayer hall has a traditional square-shape design surrounded by four columns (for the plan, see here). Three rows of niches on the east and west sides of the prayer hall expand the area of the hall and give it a rectangular shape. In the middle of the southern wall of the prayer hall is a tall mihrab niche. The top of the side niches is in the form of a balcony facing the interior and is designed for women's prayer. Windows in the middle of the side porches and on the sides of the mihrab alcove light the hall. The mosque was renovated in 1913 (RAMC nd; Garabaghli 1995).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated August 1977 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in May 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mosque is unchanged. Only the modern roofing, which was installed in the Soviet period, has been removed. The traditional domed roof as well as the walls and minarets remain intact. Numerous images (see Image Gallery) and videos pre- and post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also confirm that the monument is well-preserved. But the mosque has sustained minor damage since 1992. A photograph of that date shows that the facing of the exterior walls, which is now damaged in places, was in good condition at that time.

At some point prior to the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, the mosque was used for keeping animals, as evidenced by photographs (a, b, c).

GEOLOCATION

The mosque is marked on a 1:50K scale Soviet topographic map of 1981.



The mosque on a 1:50K scale map of 1981 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-10-B, 1:50,000).

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimedia Commons

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimedia Commons

MIRALI MAUSOLEUM

Site N.205
39.69736500N / 47.197892E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Ashaghy Veysalli (Fuzuli district), Mirali Mausoleum is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 215) as a 14th century monument (RAHL 2001; Bretanitski and Salamzade 1951; AAEN 1947; Useinov, et al. 1963, 146).

In folklore, it is known as the Mirali (Mir Ali) Mausoleum. A conical roof with carefully fitted stone slabs serves as a covering for the spherical dome of the mausoleum. The inner space consists of a burial vault and an upper chamber (for the plan of the mausoleum see Image Gallery). A characteristic feature of the monument is the internal stepped passage from the upper chamber to the burial vault. A dome covers the square lower room. The deep niches located on the sides of the central square give the vault a cruciform shape. Under the window, there is a small flat niche, apparently serving as a mihrab. In the absence of inscriptions, the mausoleum is dated on stylistic grounds to the end of the 13th or beginning of the 14th century (Useinov, et al. 1963, 148).

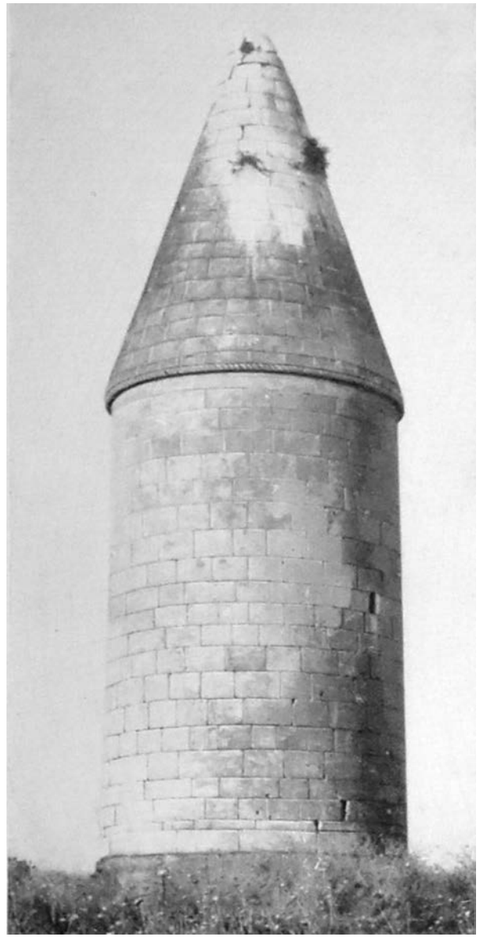
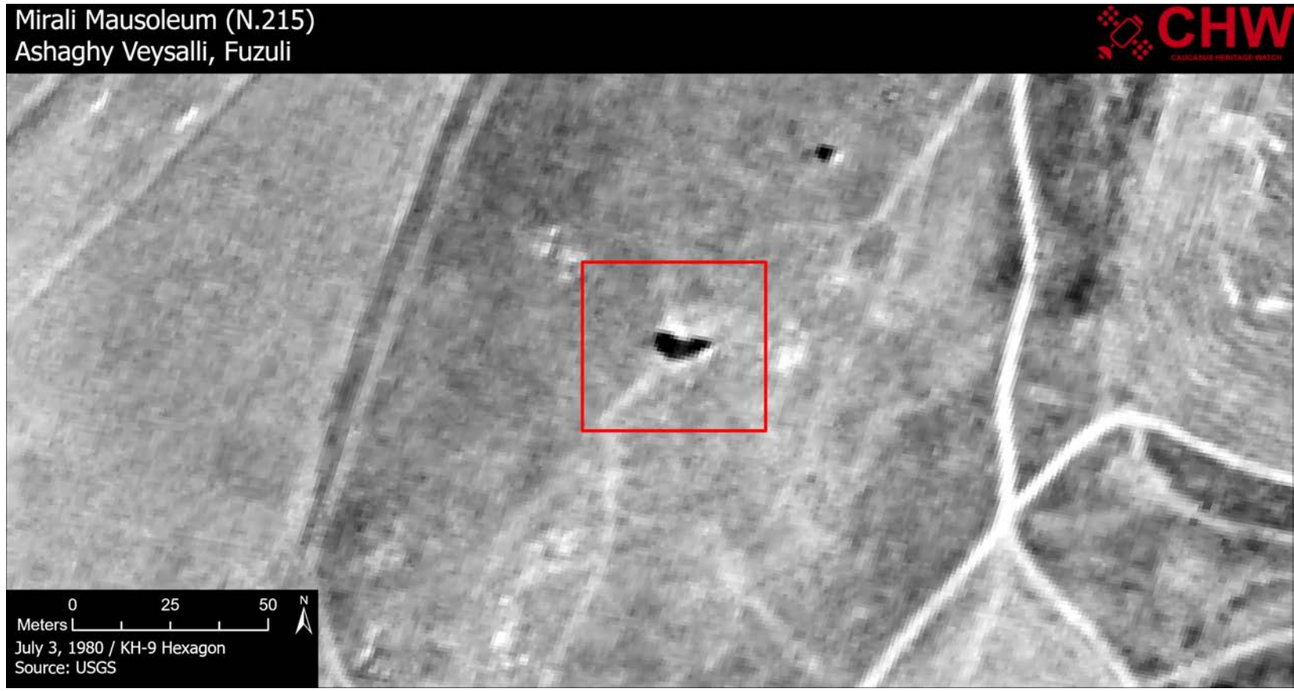


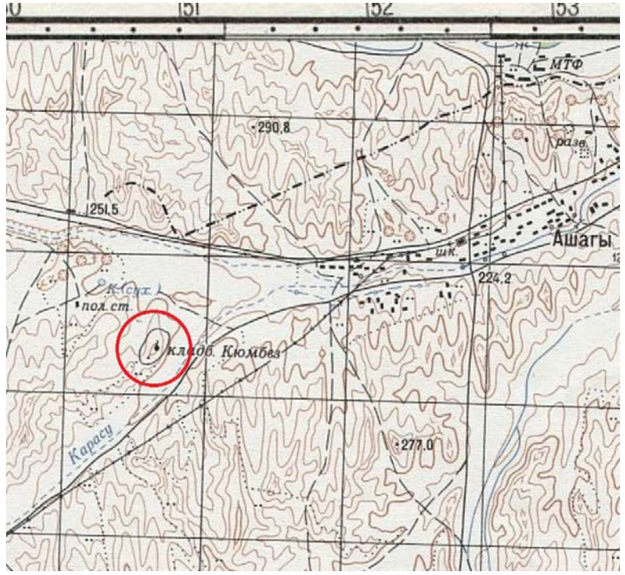
Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 163

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in October 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum is unchanged. Numerous images and videos post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also confirm that the monument is well-preserved. But recent photographic evidence shows that there is minor damage in the eastern part of the monument that appears to have resulted from its position on the line of contact during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:50,000 scale topographic map of 1973 (see p. 58).





The mausoleum on a 1:50K scale map of 1973 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-11-V, 1:50,000)

IMAGE GALLERY

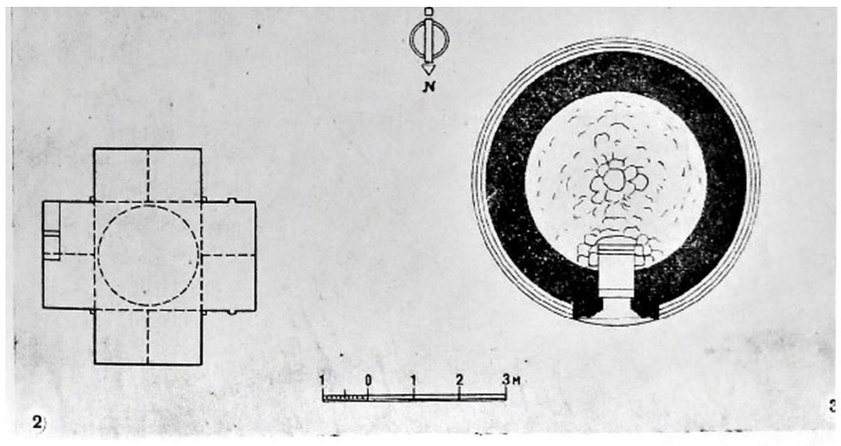
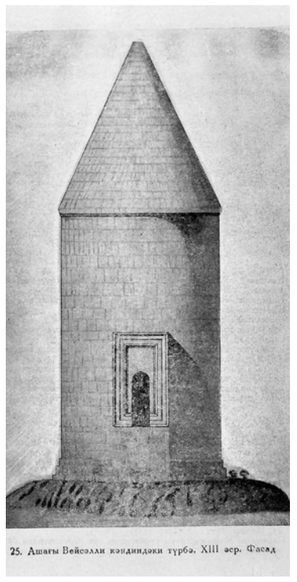


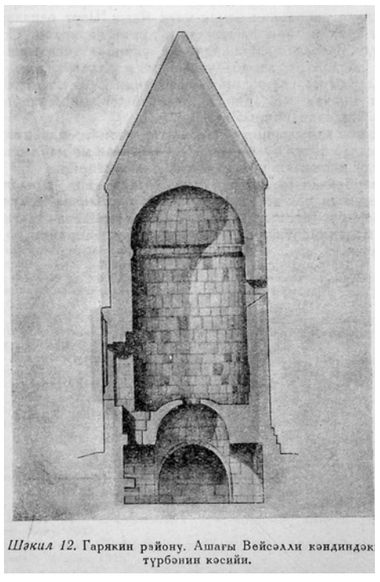
Таблица 39.
Карягинский район, сел. Вейсалы. Мавзолей «Мир-Али». XII в. н. э. (?) *1*—Общий вид. *2*—План склепа. *3*—План надземной части.

Image: AAEN 1947

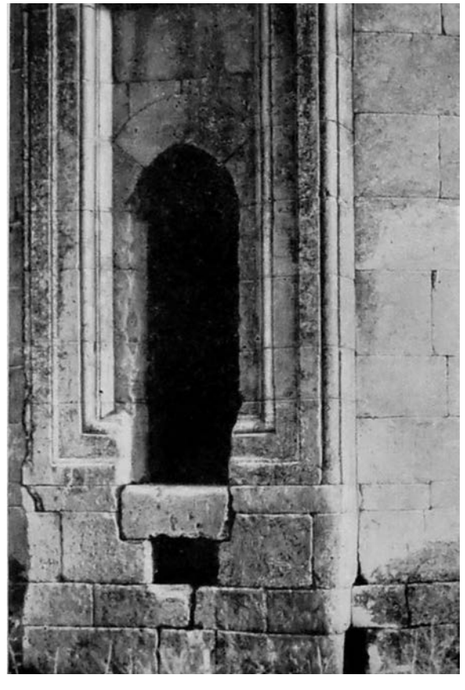
IMAGE GALLERY

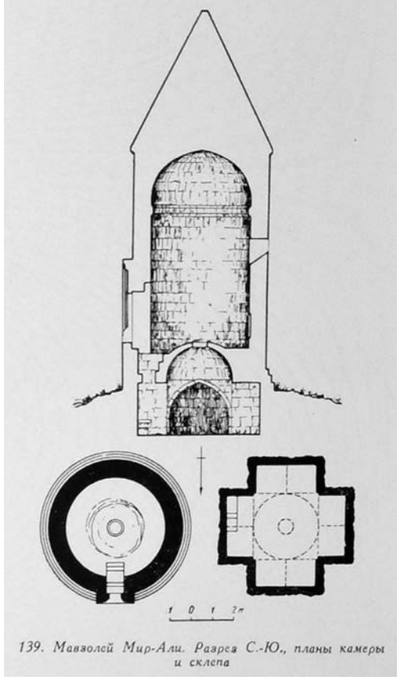


25. Ашагы Вейсэлли кэндиндэки түрбэ. XIII эср. Фасад



Шэкил 12. Гарякин рэйону. Ашагы Вейсэлли кэндиндэк түрбэнин кэсийи.





139. Мавзолей Мир-Али. Разрез С.-Ю., планы камеры и склепа

Images: AAEN 1947; Useinov, et al. 1963; Bretanitski and Salamzade 1951.

KHOJALY MAUSOLEUM

Site N.252
39.90791700N / 46.793089E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

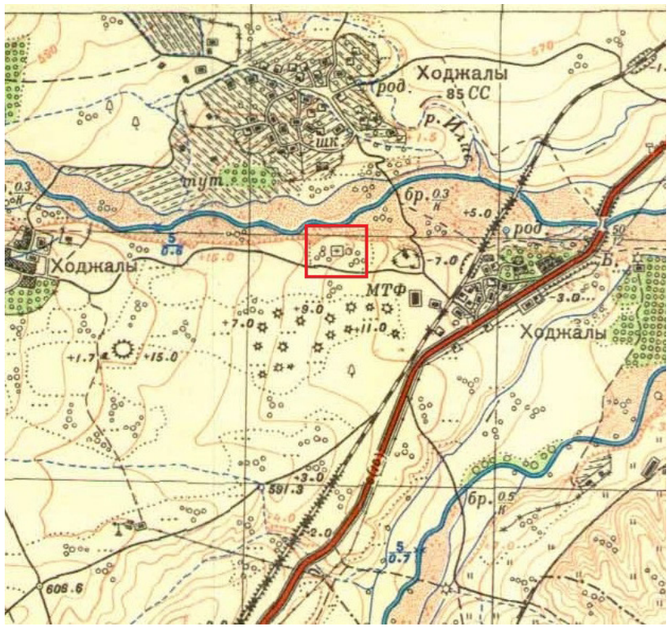
Khojaly Mausoleum is included on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 252) (RAHL 2001; Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 14).

The mausoleum is located to the north of the main kurgan field of Khojaly, close to the bank of the Khojaly River. It was damaged during the civil war of the early 20th century. The outer tiling of the mausoleum was already stripped in the 1920s. The cladding that survived on one of the walls reveals that it was covered with white limestone and reddish stone. The mausoleum has a conical dome. Above the entrance is a crescent and an octagonal rosette or star. Inside the mausoleum, there is an 8-sided rosette. A grave on the southern side of the mausoleum bears a well-preserved Arabic inscription, according to which Abu Bakr bin Dawud (Hijri 768; 1366-1367 AD) was buried there.

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery of August 1980 (right, top) and satellite imagery captured in September 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mausoleum is unchanged. An image dated November, 2, 2017 also confirms that the mausoleum is well-preserved.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1952.



The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map of 1952 (Main Department of Geodesy and Cartography under the Council of the Ministers of USSR, Khojaly, 1:25,000)

IMAGE GALLERY

Plan and sketch of the mausoleum

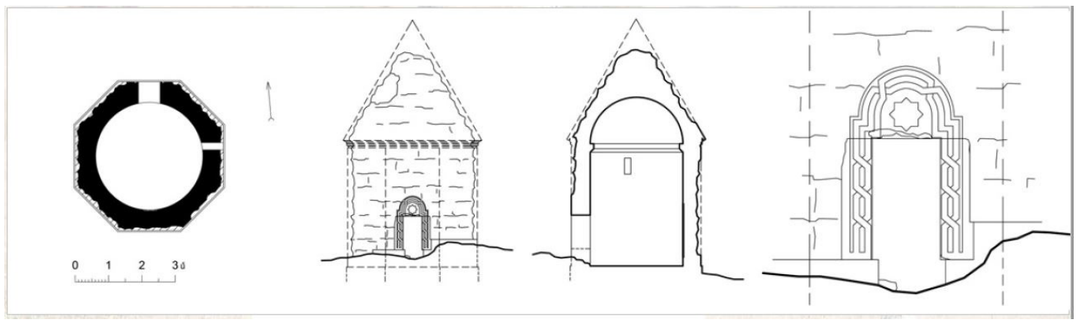


Image: RAA 2010, 19.

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: RAA 2010, 18.

GURJULU MAUSOLEUM

Site N.307
39.42237600N / 46.461916E

Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Gurjulu Mausoleum, located in the village of Gurjulu (Qubadli district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 307) as dating to the 17th century (RAHL 2001).

Image: Wikimedia Commons

This unique octagonal mausoleum is distinctive for the transition from its octagonal body to 16-sided dome. In the mausoleum, we see the preservation of the traditional method of decorating the entrance in the form of a small opening. In the absence of inscriptions, dating can be based only on the monuments architectural features. The clearest dating element is the door frame in the form of a small relief portal. This technique is typical of the 17th century, as is the shape of the arches that complete the frame. Scholars assign the mausoleum to the 17th or 18th centuries (Useinov et al. 1963, 277-278; Salamzade 1964, 52-53).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) and satellite imagery captured in September 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum is unchanged. A video and images (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also confirm that the monument retains its structural integrity. But the dome and facing stones have sustained minor damage since the Soviet period (c, d).

GEOLOCATION

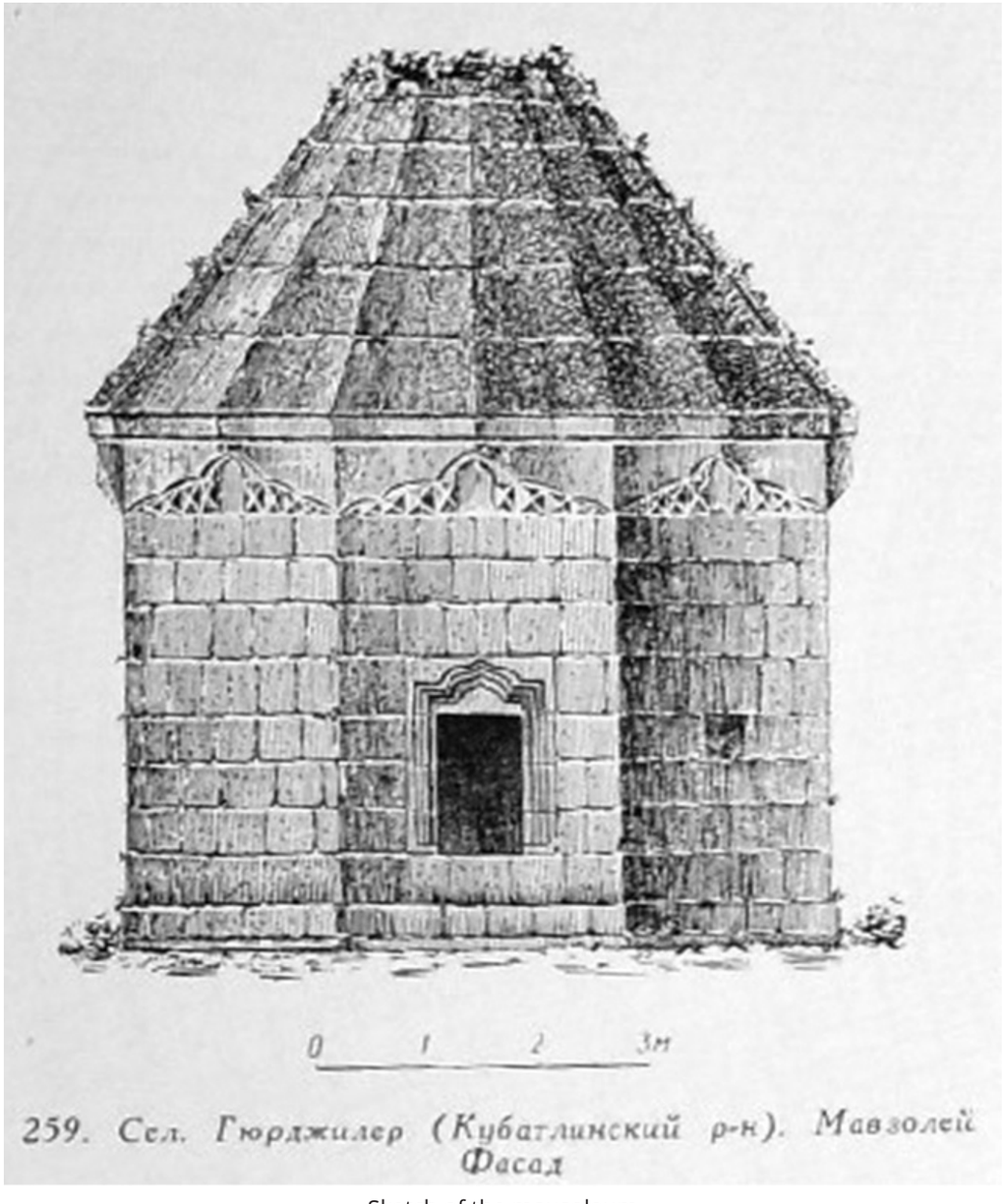
CHW geolocated the mausoleum through a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAGE GALLERY

The mausoleum in the Soviet era

Image: Wikimedia Commons;

IMAGE GALLERY



Sketch of the mausoleum

Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 279

DAMIRCHILAR MAUSOLEUM NO.1

Site N.308
39.31577096N / 46.60037289 E

Status: Indeterminate

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: RAA 2010, 24.

Damirchilar Mausoleum Number 1, located in the village of Damirchilar (Qubadli district), is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 308) as an architectural monument of the 14th century (RAHL 2001; Useinov, et al. 1963, 158).

The mausoleum is located in an orchard on the left bank of a small stream that flows near the village of Damirchilar. It is octagonal with a width of 1.9m, and rests on a two-course socle made of large stones. The outer surfaces of all eight faces are covered with shallow niches and tri-lobed semicircular arches. In the center of the arches of the eastern and western faces is a small, narrow window. In the northern façade, there is a doorway covered with a single large stone. The bluish-gray stones of the cornice create the impression of an encircling belt, serving as a line between the dome and the structure's main volume. The mausoleum is covered with an octagonal dome. Facing slabs have survived in places on the edges of the dome. The walls of the interior are made of finely hewn stone. In the southern wall, there is a mihrab in the form of a small, shallow niche. On the western wall, near the base of the dome, there is a stone carved with an image of the sun. The same image is on the outer southwestern face in the form of a round rosette covered with pointed petals. The dome rests directly on the cornice, capped by a stone in the shape of a polygonal rosette. The internal height of the mausoleum from the floor to the top of the dome is 4.5m. There are no inscriptions on the exterior or interior. Scholars have dated the structure to the 13th-14th centuries (Shcheblykin 1947, 158-159; Useinov, et al. 1963, 159).

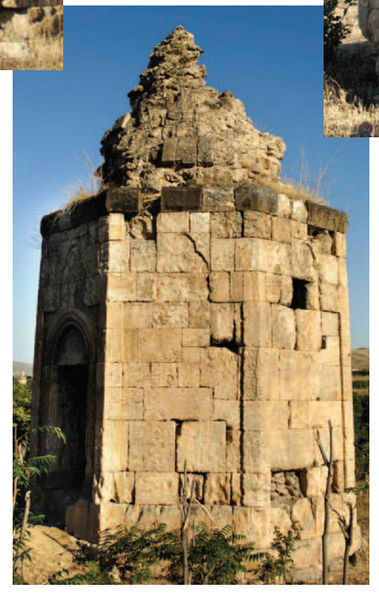
The mausoleum is not clearly visible on KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top), which makes it difficult to assess its condition in the late Soviet years. Images and videos post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War show that the dome of the mausoleum is damaged. This impact on the structure is not discernible on the available satellite imagery. Given the absence of late Soviet images of the monument, it is impossible to determine whether the damage took place before or after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War. The dome of the mausoleum appears in its damaged condition in a book published in 2010 (RAA 2010, 24; see Image Gallery). It is possible that the damage took place after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, but without late Soviet imagery, this cannot be determined with certainty. CHW therefore assesses the status of the monument as indeterminate. It has either remained unchanged since the late Soviet years or has sustained minor damage.

On satellite imagery captures in April 2016 (right, bottom) the mausoleum appears to be in good condition. It appears to have remained in this condition until the second Nagorno-Karabakh War (see p. 71).

GEOLOCATION

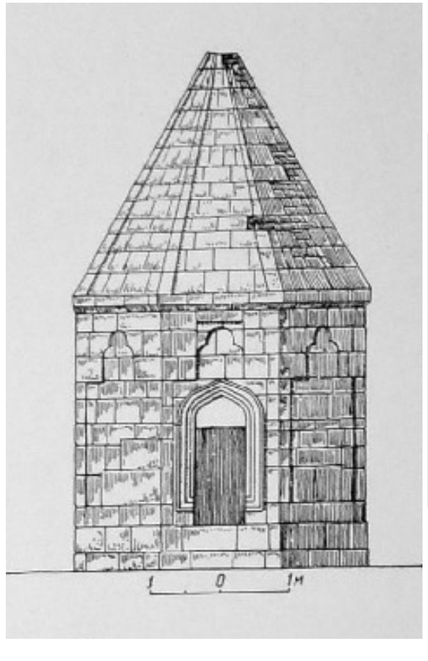
CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a video and an image post-dating the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAGE GALLERY



Images: RAA 2010, 24.

A 1963 plan and sketch of the mausoleum



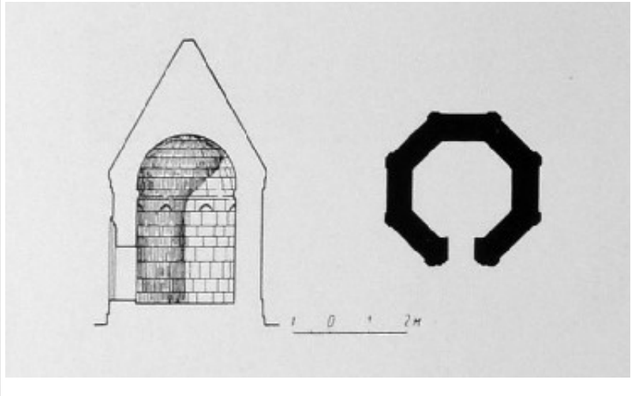


Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 158.

DAMIRCHILAR MAUSOLEUM NO.2

Site N.309
39.31436300N / 46.60442E

Status: Unchanged

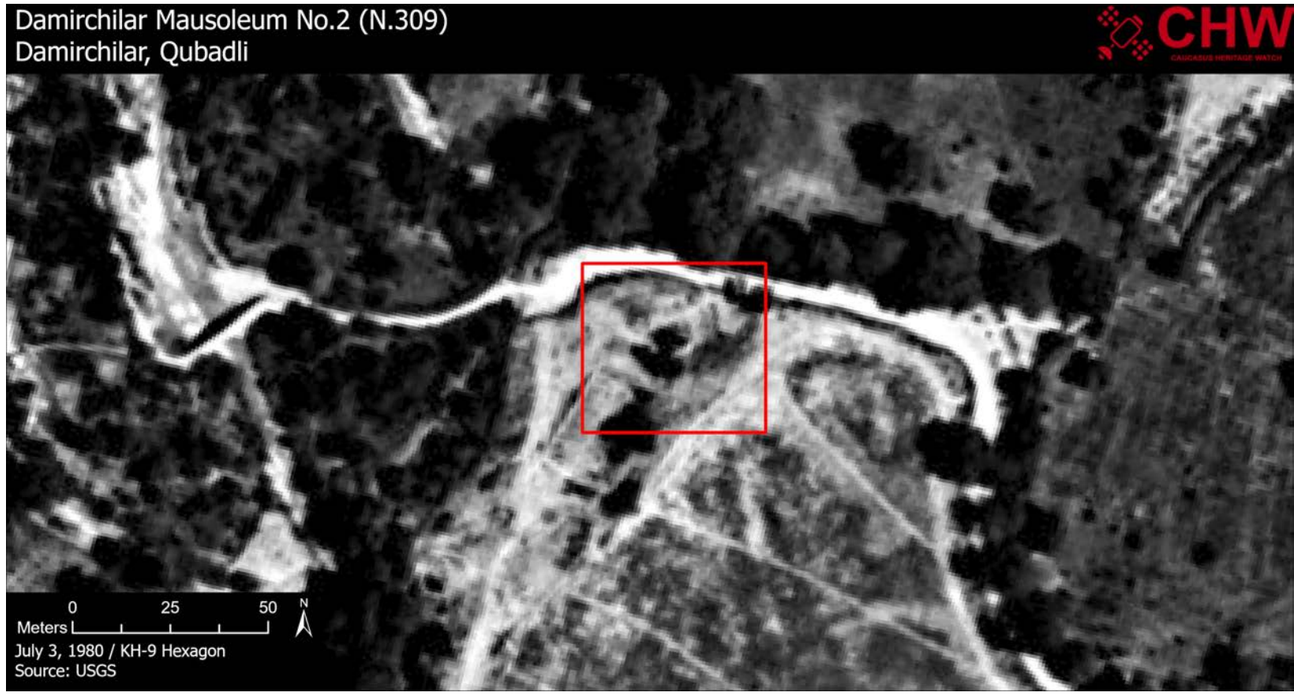
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Damirchilar Mausoleum Number 2, located in the village of Damirchilar (Qubadli district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 309) as dating to the 14th-century (RAHL 2001; AAEN 1947).

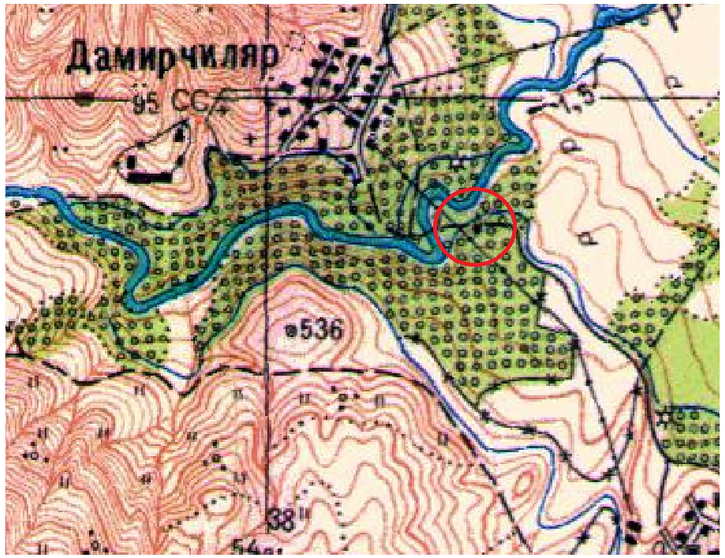
The mausoleum is located on the flat slope of a hill on the right bank of the Hakari River, between the villages of Damirchilar and Dondarly. The sides of the octagonal mausoleum measure 2.03m on the exterior. The mausoleum stands on a socle consisting of two rows of masonry. In the eastern and western walls there are small windows. In the northern wall there is a rectangular doorway. A rectangular frame with beveled planes surrounds the entrance topped by a lancet arch. At a height of 6.91m from the ground level, the walls are surmounted by a cornice resembling that of Mausoleum No.1, and made of the same grayish-blue stone. The pyramidal outer covering is lined with stone slabs of various sizes. Stones also line the structure's interior. 3.9m above the floor, a row of stones slightly protrudes from the plane of the walls. A cornice runs above this row, repeating on a smaller scale the pattern of the profile of the outer cornice. In the southern wall there is a small, slightly recessed lancet niche, decorated on the outside with a pattern of semicircles carved on stones. The interior height of the mausoleum is 6.2m. Based on the design of the mausoleum, the monument can be attributed approximately to the 13th-14th centuries (Shcheblykin 1947, 159-160).

CHW compared the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2022 (right, bottom) to determine that the overall condition of the mausoleum is unchanged. Videos (a, b) and images (c, d) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War further confirm that the monument is well-preserved. While some of the tile facing is missing, this was already the case at the time of a 1947 publication (Shcheblykin 1947, 159-160). Moreover, the ceramic inclusions in the matrix of the dome, visible in this video, is already mentioned in the same Soviet-era work.

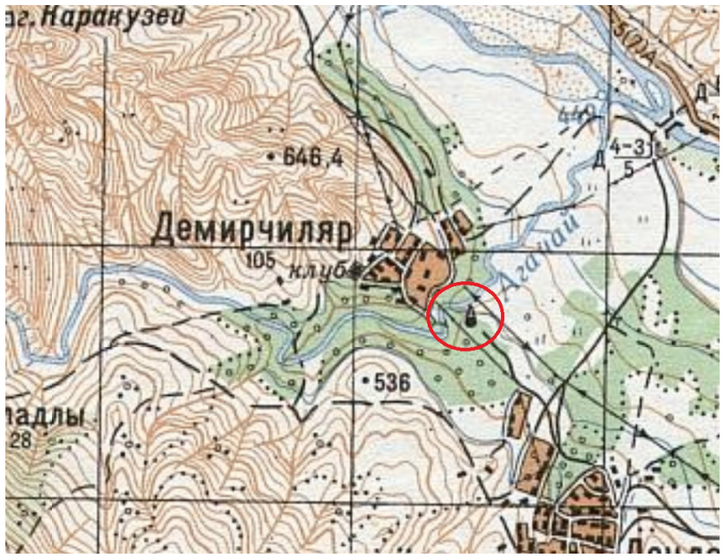


GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 scale topographic maps from 1956 and 1974.

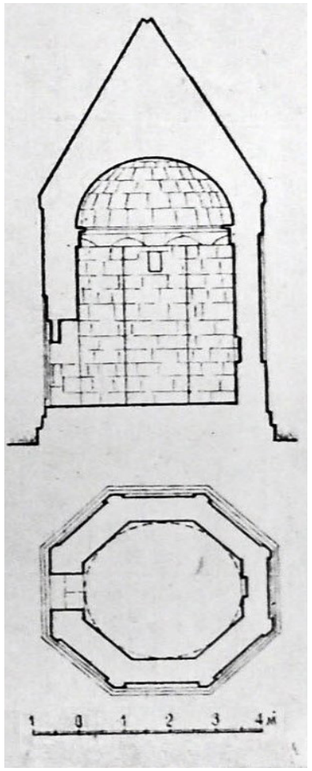


The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map of 1956 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-34-A-a, 1:25,000)



The mausoleum on a 1:50K scale map of 1974 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-34-A, 1:50,000)

IMAGE GALLERY



Images: Wikimedia Commons; AAEN 1947.

MELIK AJDAR MAUSOLEUM

Site N.311
39.51214600N / 46.512862E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

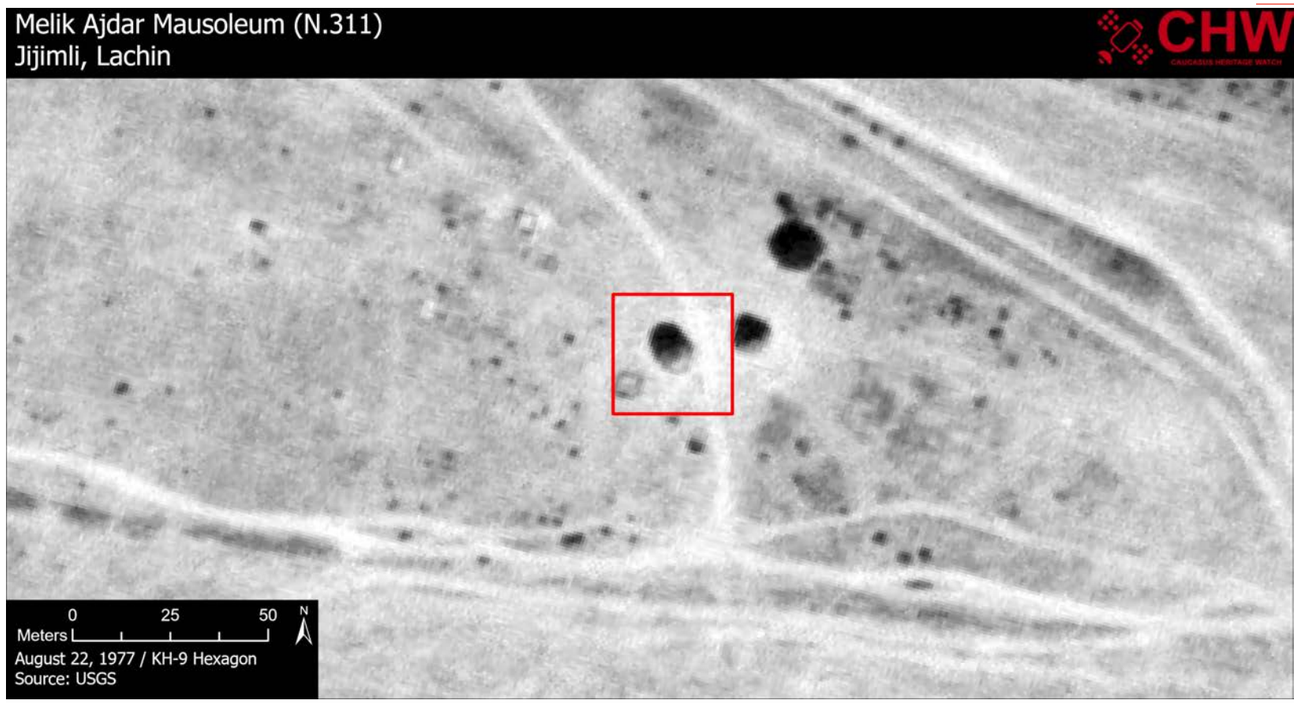
Image: Wikimedia Commons

Melik Ajdar Mausoleum, located in the village of Jijimli (Lachin district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 311) as dating to the 14th century (RAHL 2001; AAEN 1947).

According to Salamzade's (Useinov et al. 1963) classification of 12th-15th c. mausolea, this octahedral mausoleum is distinctive. The mausoleum exterior was lined with large cleanly hewn slabs. The diameter of the cornice is significantly less than that of the base, creating a tapered profile. Above the cornice rises a parabolic cover. On the north side is a small entrance framed with ribbons of embossed rosettes. The interior is sparingly lit by four small rectangular windows located at the base of the dome.

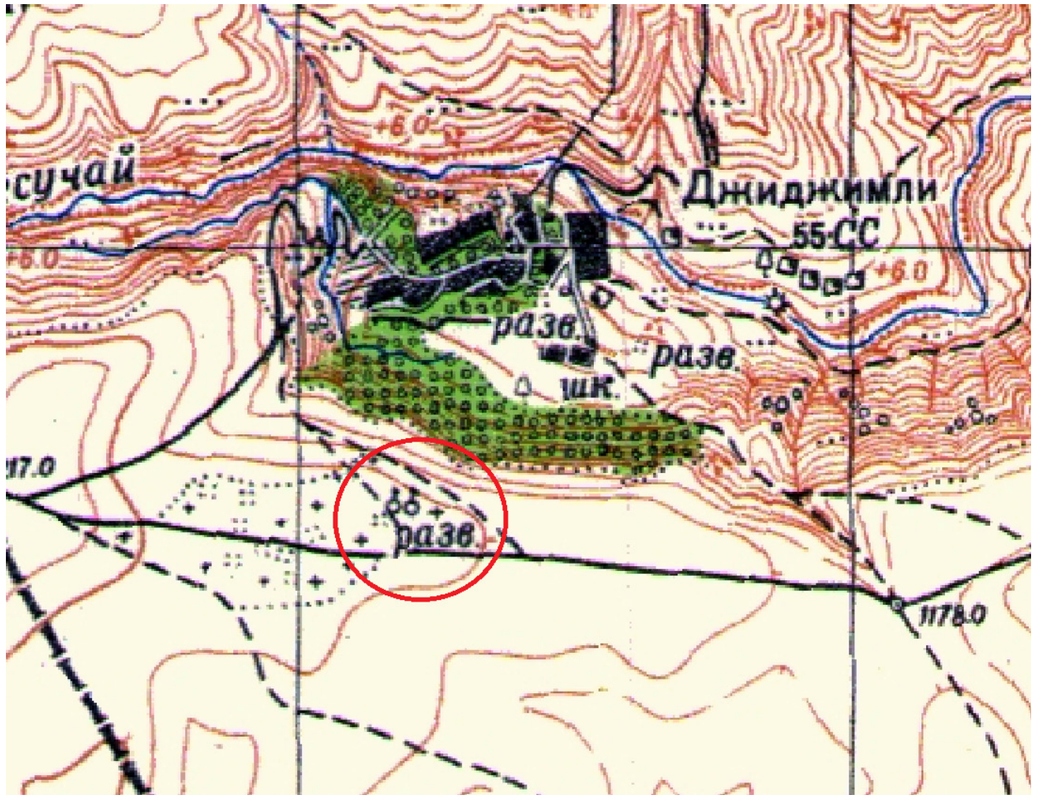
Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated August 1977 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured on June 8, 2004 (right, bottom) shows that the dome of the mausoleum collapsed during that interval. The collapse of the dome is further confirmed by the comparison of a Soviet-period image with recent images (a, b) and video of the monument.

The mausoleum remained in the same condition in the period between June 2004 and April 2022 (see p. 79).



GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1955.



The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map of 1955 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-22-A-v, 1:25,000)

IMAGE GALLERY

Image: [Monument Watch]

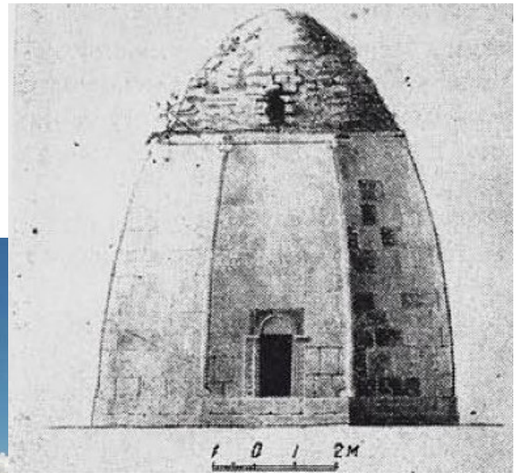


Image: AAO 1952; Useinov, et al. 1963.

KAR GUNBAZ MAUSOLEUM

Site N.312
39.51219500N / 46.513121E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

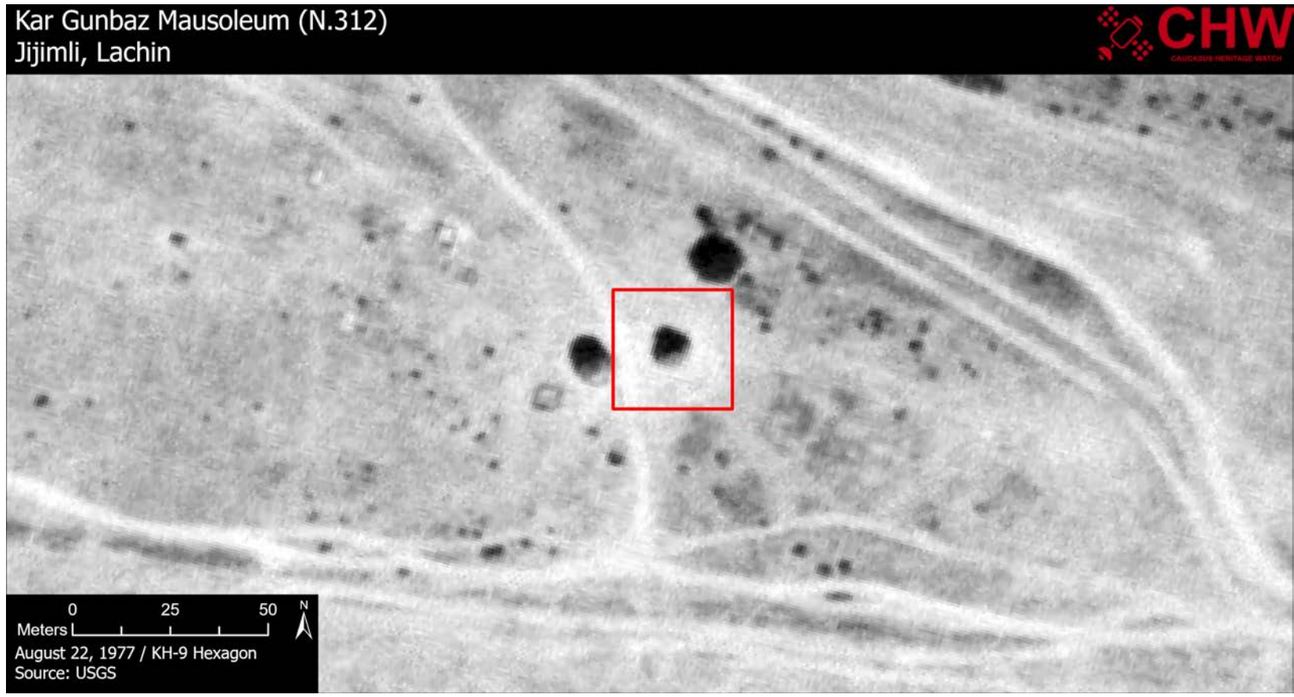
Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Kar Gunbaz Mausoleum, located in the village of Jijimli (Lachin district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 312) as dating to the 17th or 18th century (RAHL 2001).

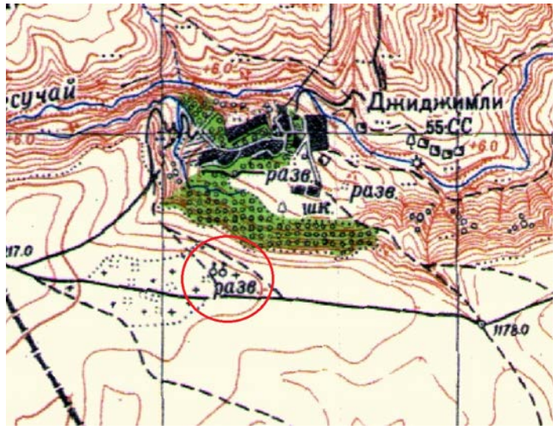
The mausoleum is located next to Melik Ajdar Mausoleum and was built, according to legend, by craftsmen from Armenia. The form of the monument resembles the two-storey chapels of Armenia and Georgia (Useinov, et al. 1963, 104).

Hexagon imagery of the mausoleum dated August 1977 (p. 82, top) is not of sufficient resolution to determine whether the damage to the dome, visible in an undated Soviet-era photograph, took place before or after the late 1970s. A high-resolution satellite image captured in April 2022 (p. 82, bottom) does show that the overall condition of the structure had not significantly changed since the Soviet-era photograph. Video and images (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War shows that the mausoleum has sustained additional minor damage, including a hole in one side of the dome.



GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1955.



The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map of 1955 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-22-A-v, 1:25,000).

IMAGE GALLERY

Image: Panoramio

Images: Wikimedia Commons

UPPER GOVHAR AGHA MOSQUE

Site N.344
39.76005791N / 46.75267026E

Status: Restored

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

The Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites describes the Upper Govhar Agha Mosque in Shusha (inventory No. 344) as originally founded in 1768-1769 (RAHL 2001).

In 1883, on the site of a former mosque, prominent local architect Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi, with funding from Govhar Agha, constructed a new, fourth Juma (Great Cathedral) Mosque of Shusha. It appears that the architect used the foundations of the former mosque. A spacious iwan adorns almost the entire front of the northern facade. The arcade of the portico consists of three identical arches, rising almost to the entire height of the facade. Above the arches of the iwan is a long ribbon bearing a Quranic inscription. The prayer hall is almost square, with balconies extending along its sides. In the middle of the ceiling are two small domes. Inside the shaft of the minaret, is a steep narrow spiral staircase, which leads to the upper platform of the muezzin. The staircases of the minarets are sparingly illuminated by slotted windows. The top of the shaft of the minaret is surrounded by a Quranic inscription (Avalov 1977, 55-57). In the late Soviet era the mosque functioned as a museum.

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (righ, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, bottom) shows that the Soviet-era roofing was removed, likely sometime after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War. As of 2002, the mosque remained in sound structural condition.

By July 2013, the traditional domed roof of the mosque had again been covered with modern roofing. In 2019, the mosque was restored by authorities of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, as seen in the September 2020 satellite image (p. 87, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

The location of the mosque is provided (in red) in a 1977 academic publication on the architecture of Shusha city (Avalov 1977, 59).

Рис. 12. Фрагмент исторического торгового центра Шуши 1950 г.: *1* — Мейдан; *2* — ось Ашагы базар; *3* — ось Раста базар; *4* — ось Шейтан базар; *5* — Верхняя мечеть; *6* — медресе; *7* — караван-сарай Мешади Шукюра Мирсияб оглы; *8* — караван-сарай братьев Сафаровых; *9* — мечеть Ходжа Мирджанлы; *10* — торговые ряды; *11* — мастерские; *12* — булаг; *13* — караван-сарай. Экспликация автора.

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimedia Commons

LOWER GOVHAR AGHA MOSQUE

Site N.345
39.76171408N / 46.75378513E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Lower Govhar Agha Mosque, located in the city of Shusha, is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 345) as dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

In 1874-1875, the complex of the Lower Govhar Agha Mosque was completely rebuilt and reconstructed. Architect Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi built both the Upper and Lower Mosques with funding from Govhar Agha. Built according to the same architectural and planning principle, both of these Juma (cathedral) mosques have almost the same dimensions. Both mosques are two-tiered, designed with a three-arched iwan arcade on the side of the main, northern facade. The middle arch of the Lower Govhar Agha Mosque is lancet-shaped, accentuating the front entrance. The three-nave, almost square double-height prayer hall is surrounded by lancet vaults and covered by domes. Window openings were designed in the form of a bow arch. The round slender minarets of the Lower Mosque are made of bricks, the geometric pattern formed into a repeatedly reproduced color inscription - "Allah". The main façade opens onto a vast rectangular courtyard of a U-shaped two-story madrasa, the yard facades of which are covered with deep two-tiered iwans along the entire perimeter (Avalov 1977, 60-62).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, bottom) shows that during this period the mosque itself remained well-preserved, even as the accompanying structures (madrasa) to the north sustained major damage, likely between the early 1990s and 2002 (see the plan of the complex on p. 91).

Between September 2002 and September 2021, the mosque remained in the same condition (see p. 91).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using locational information (a fragment of the master plan of Shusha) provided in a 1977 academic study (Avalov 1977, 44) of the architecture of Shusha as well as recent images of the mosque (a, b, c).

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimedia Commons

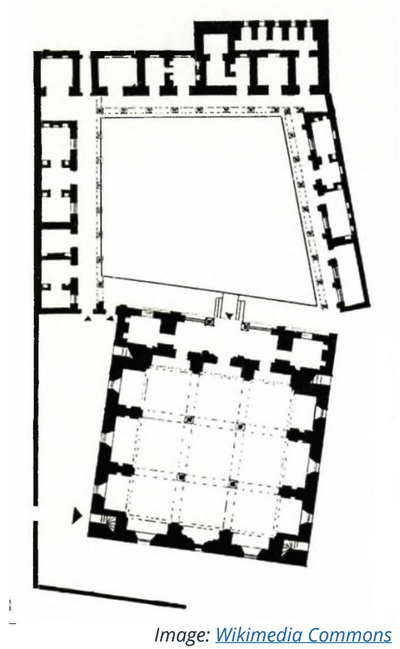


Image: Wikimedia Commons

TAZA MAHALLA MOSQUE

Site N.347
39.75676497N / 46.7533739E

Status: Renovated

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

The Taza Mahalla mosque, located in the city of Shusha, is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 347) as dating to the 18th century. There it appears as Mehmandarov's mansion complex, consisting of a mosque, small house, and large house (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that during this period the mosque remained well-preserved. The mosque remained in the same condition until February 2004. At some point between February 2004 and July 2013, the mosque was renovated. In September 2014, the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities opened a geology museum in the mosque building (a, b), a function it held until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (c, d) (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a scholarly publication on the architecture of Shusha city (Avalov 1977, 71).

SAATLI MOSQUE

Site N.355
39.76265600N / 46.751076E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Renovated

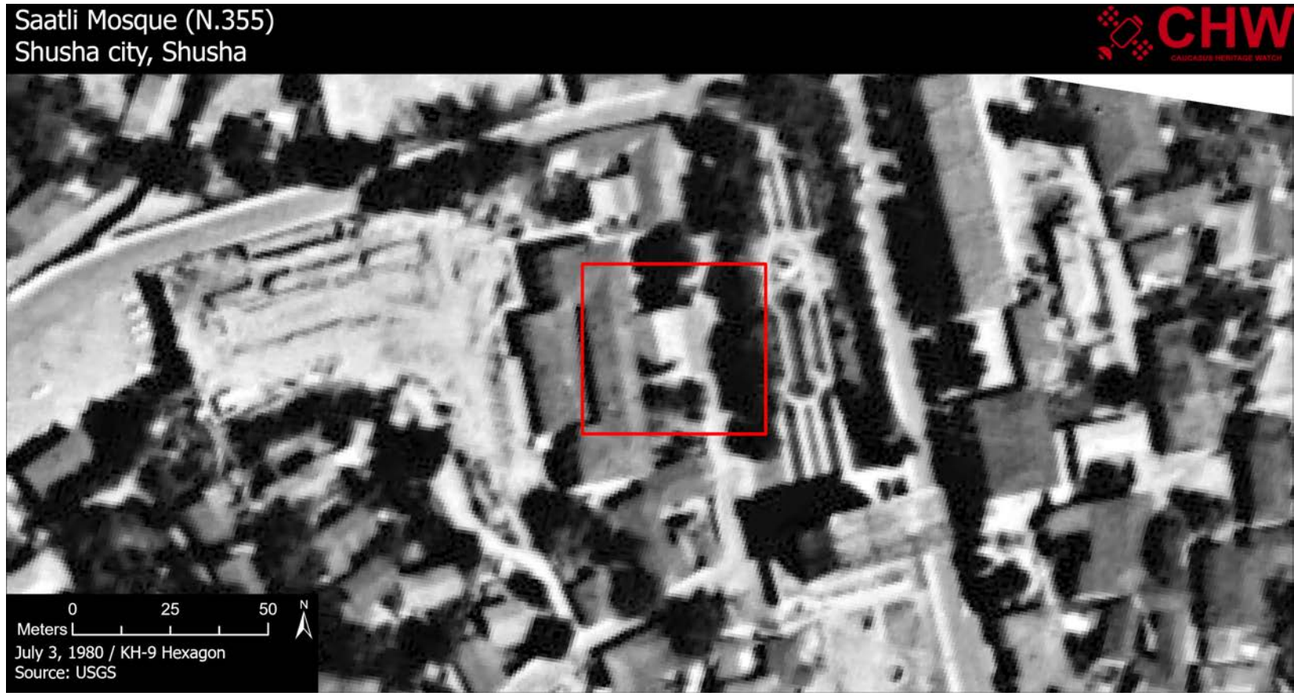
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Saatli Mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official monument registry (inventory No. 355) as dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

The Saatli Mosque stands out among the neighborhood mosques of Shusha. According to an inscription on the main facade, it was built by Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi in 1883. The Saatli Mosque is decorated with a brick, patterned minaret added after the initial construction. The high round minaret, visible from Bazaar Bashi Square, created a unique silhouette with its colored vertical pattern (Avalov 1977, 77-80).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, bottom) shows that during this period the modern roofing of the mosque was removed. The traditional domed roof and the building as a whole remained in sound condition.

At some point between February 2004 and July 2013, the mosque was renovated and the traditional domed roof was again covered with modern roofing (see p. 96, top). The mosque remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (see p. 96, bottom).



GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images and videos (a, b, c, d) pre- and post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimedia Commons

VAGIF MAUSOLEUM

Site N.367
39.75541600N / 46.758388E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Located in the city of Shusha, Vagif Mausoleum is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 367) as built during the 1970s on the grave of the 18th century Azerbaijani poet, Molla Panah Vagif (RAHL 2001).

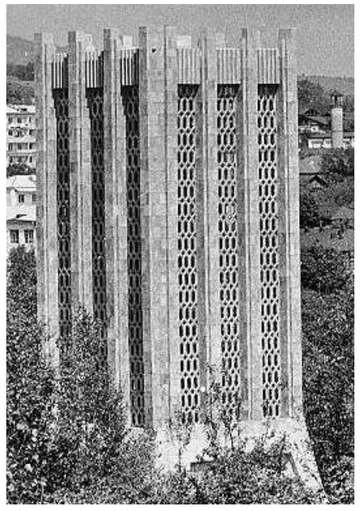
The monument to Molla Panah Vagif was designed by Abdul Vahab Salamzadeh and Eldar Kanukov, using the traditional principles of Azerbaijani tower mausolea yet with a distinctly modern style. This square building reaches a height of 18m. A bust of the poet was installed inside. In the center of the white marble hall, a black marble sarcophagus was placed above the grave. The side walls of the hall were decorated with lines from the poet's poems. The facade was decorated with reddish granite. The exterior surface was composed of an anodized aluminum mesh supported by granite pillars. The architects abandoned the traditional archaic division of the internal space into tiers, instead creating a single open hall. Also noteworthy is the absence of a traditional dome. Instead, the designers employed a flat reinforced concrete roof (Avalov 1977, 99-100).

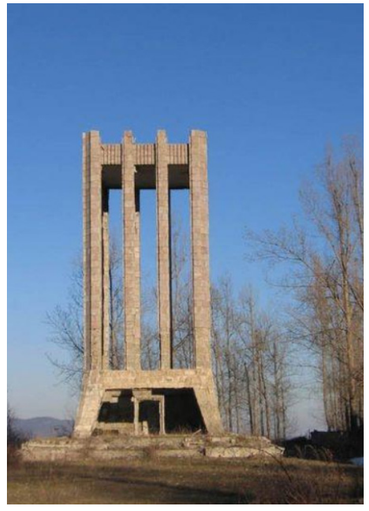
CHW compared a Hexagon image dated July 1980 (right, top) with an image captured in September 2002 (right, bottom). While the satellite imagery shows that the frame of the monument survived, images (a, b) and videos from the ground show that the mausoleum sustained major damage since the Soviet period, leaving only a skeletal structure. The mausoleum remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (see p. 100). It has since been restored.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using online imagery and a video, as well as its visual identification on satellite imagery.

IMAGE GALLERY





Images: Panoramio, Wikimedia Commons.

The restored mausoleum after the 2020 Karabakh War

Images: Wikimedia Commons

MAMMADBEYLI MAUSOLEUM

Site N.391
39.16016300N / 46.802182E

Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Mammadbeyli Mausoleum (also known as Octagonal Mausoleum or Mausoleum of Yahya ibn Muhammad al-Haj), located in the village of Mammadbeyli (Zangilan district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 391; RAHL 2001). According to the official listing as well as scholarly publications it dates to the 14th century (Bretanitski 1951; Salamzade and Memmedzade 1979; Mamed-zade 1983).

The mausoleum in the village of Mammadbeyli survives in good condition. In the 1980s, there was slight damage to the upper part of the dome. The stone mausoleum is an octagonal prism covered with a pyramidal dome with an entrance in the northwestern face. Above the entrance is an Arabic inscription, according to which the mausoleum was built in the month of Ramadan 704 (AD 1305) over the grave of Muhammad al-Haj (Mamed-zade 1983, 101-103).

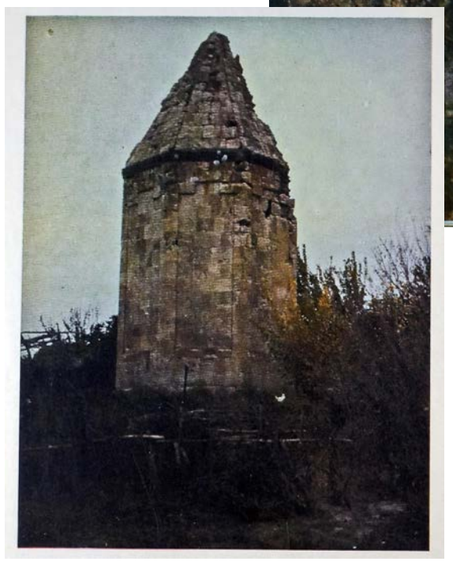
Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) and satellite imagery captured in November 2021 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum is unchanged. A video and images (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment. But the video and one of the images show that the mausoleum sustained minor damage in the lower part of the south-western wall since the Soviet period (for Soviet-era images, see Image Gallery).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using the above-referenced videos and images pre- and post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAGE GALLERY

The mausoleum in the Soviet period



24. Şəmkirdə rayonu. Məmmədbəyli kəndi. Türbə. XIII əsr. Ümumi görünüşü.

Images: Mamed-zade 1983; Salamzade and Memmedzade 1979; Bretanitski 1951.

The mausoleum in 2006

The mausoleum in 2014

Images: Wikimedia Commons; Panoramio.

YENIKEND TOMB

Site N.393
39.18938500N / 46.747913E

Status: Unchanged

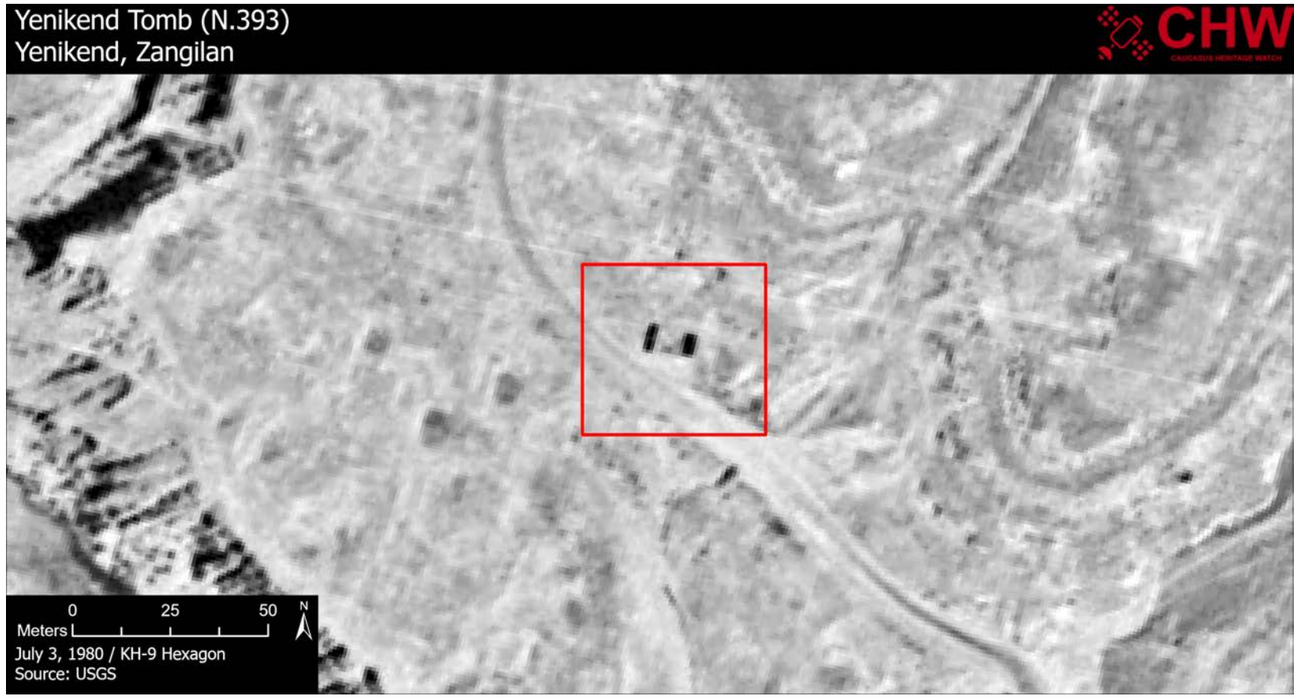
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Yenikend Tomb, located in the village of Yenikend (Zangilan district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 393) as dating to the 14th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in October 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the structural condition of the tomb has not changed significantly since the first image. The roof was already missing in 1980 and the remaining walls of the structure are unchanged.

GEOLOCATION

The tomb is not marked on the available cartographic sources. CHW geolocated it using images (a, b, c, d, e) published by Karabakh Center.



SHARIFAN MAUSOLEUM AND TOMB

Site N.394; N.1824
39.13867400N/ 46.791916E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Sharifan Mausoleum and Tomb, located on the right bank of the Hakari River near the village of Sharifan (Zangilan district), are listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 394 and No. 1824) as dating to the 13th and 14th centuries, respectively (RAHL 2001).

Archaeological excavations uncovered the mausoleum and tomb in 1949 (Rzaev 1973, 335-341). Several Soviet-era publications note that the mausoleum and tomb were already heavily damaged at the time of their documentation. The destruction affected the dome and the northern part of the crypt. (Rzaev 1973, 335-341; Salamzade and Memmedzade 1979, 50; Useinov, et al. 1963, 103). This is confirmed by available Soviet-era images of the sites (see Image Gallery).

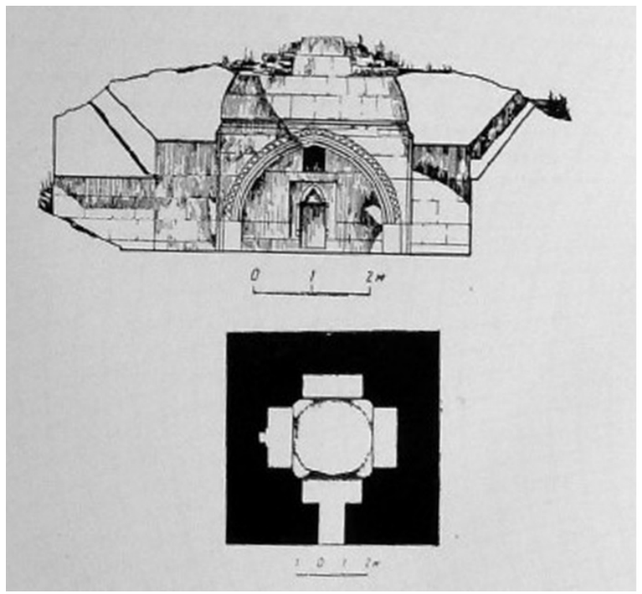


Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 103.

Our comparison of the July 1980 Hexagon imagery (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2019 (right, bottom) shows that no changes have taken place in the area of the tomb and mausoleum in recent decades. Images of the tomb and mausoleum post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment (a, b, c, d).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using descriptions of its location (Rzaev 1973, 335) as well as images (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 103.

IMAGE GALLERY

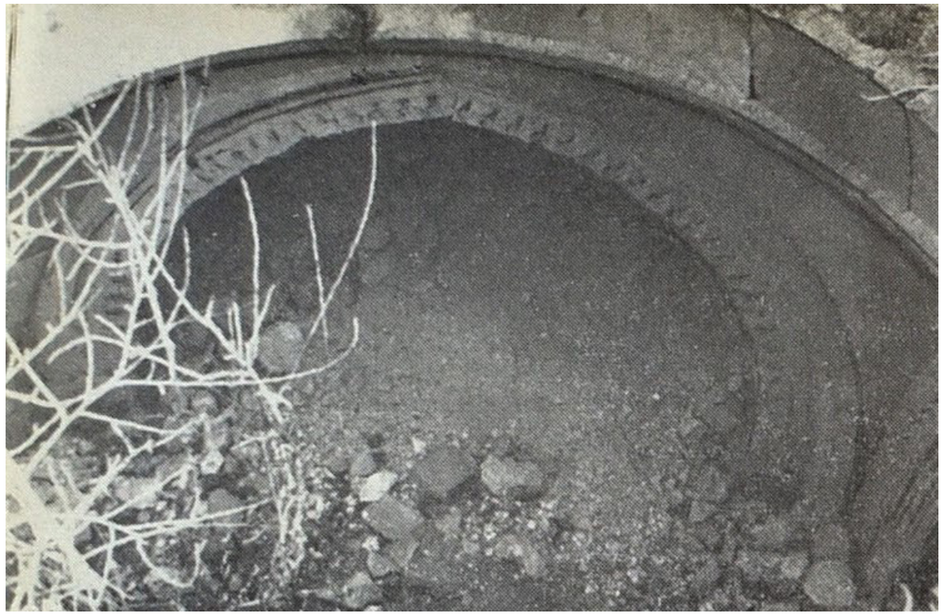


Image: Salamzade and Memmedzade 1979

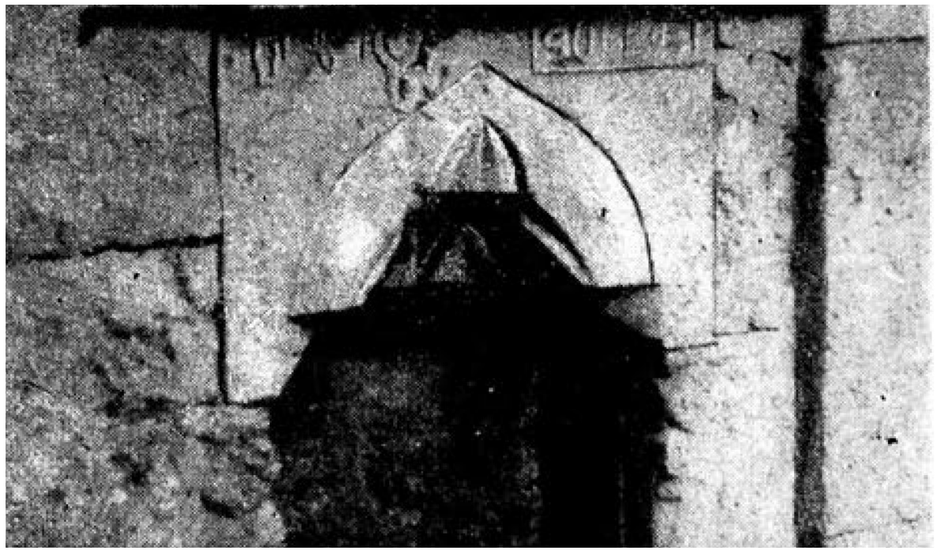
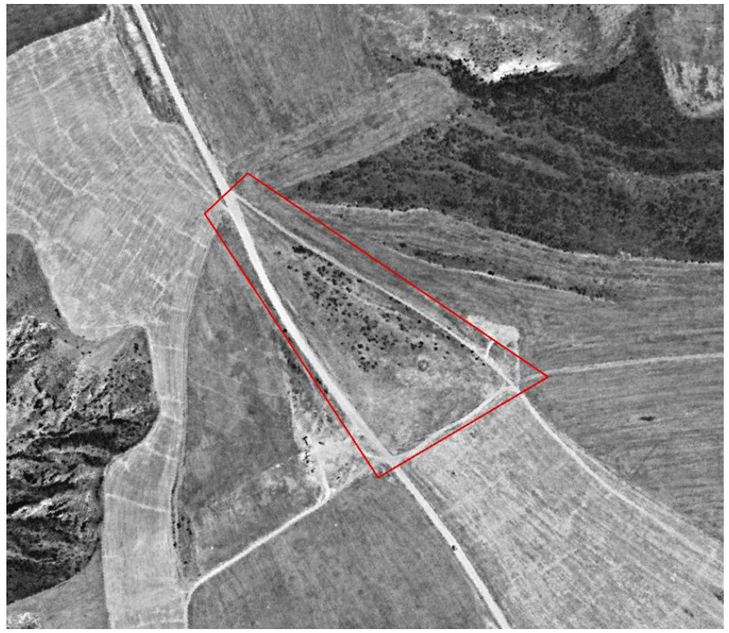


Image: Rzaev 1973, 337.

CEMETERY

Site N.1454
39.41846526N / 46.56261884E



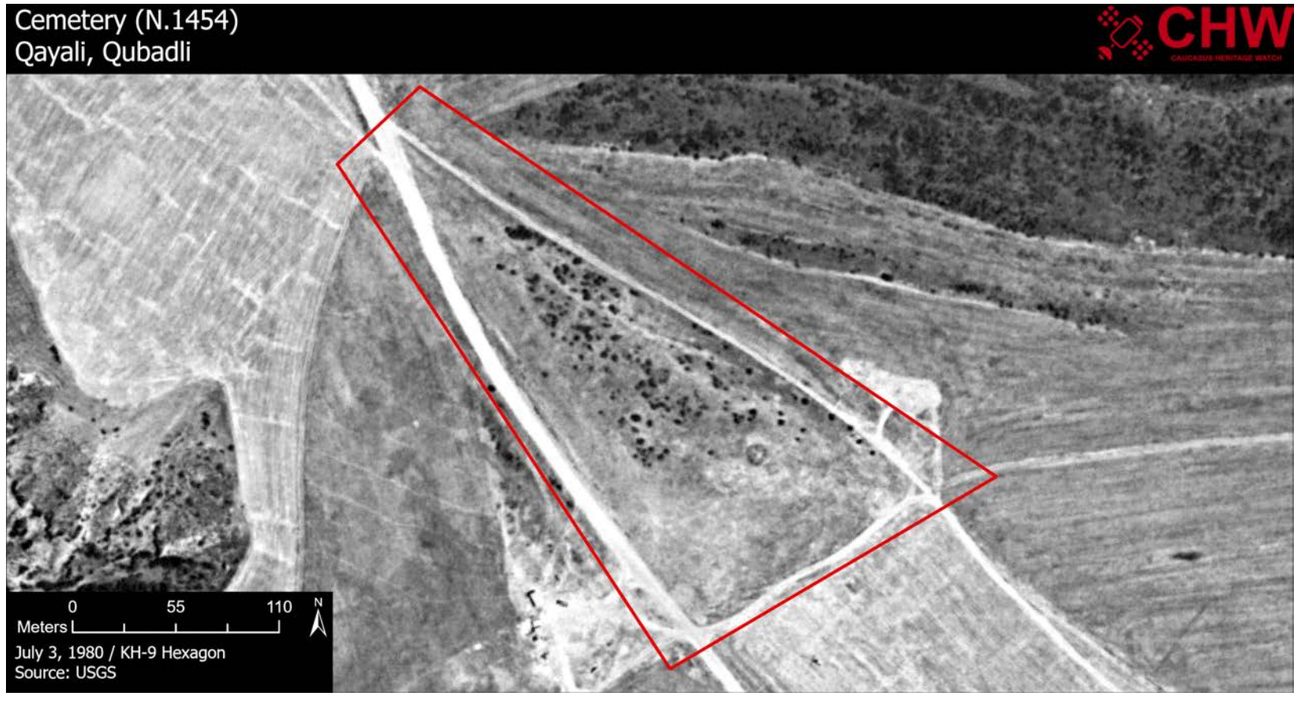
Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located near the village of Qayali (Qubadli district), in the Yazy-Duzu plain, this cemetery is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 1454) as an archeological monument dating to the 14th century (RAHL 2001).

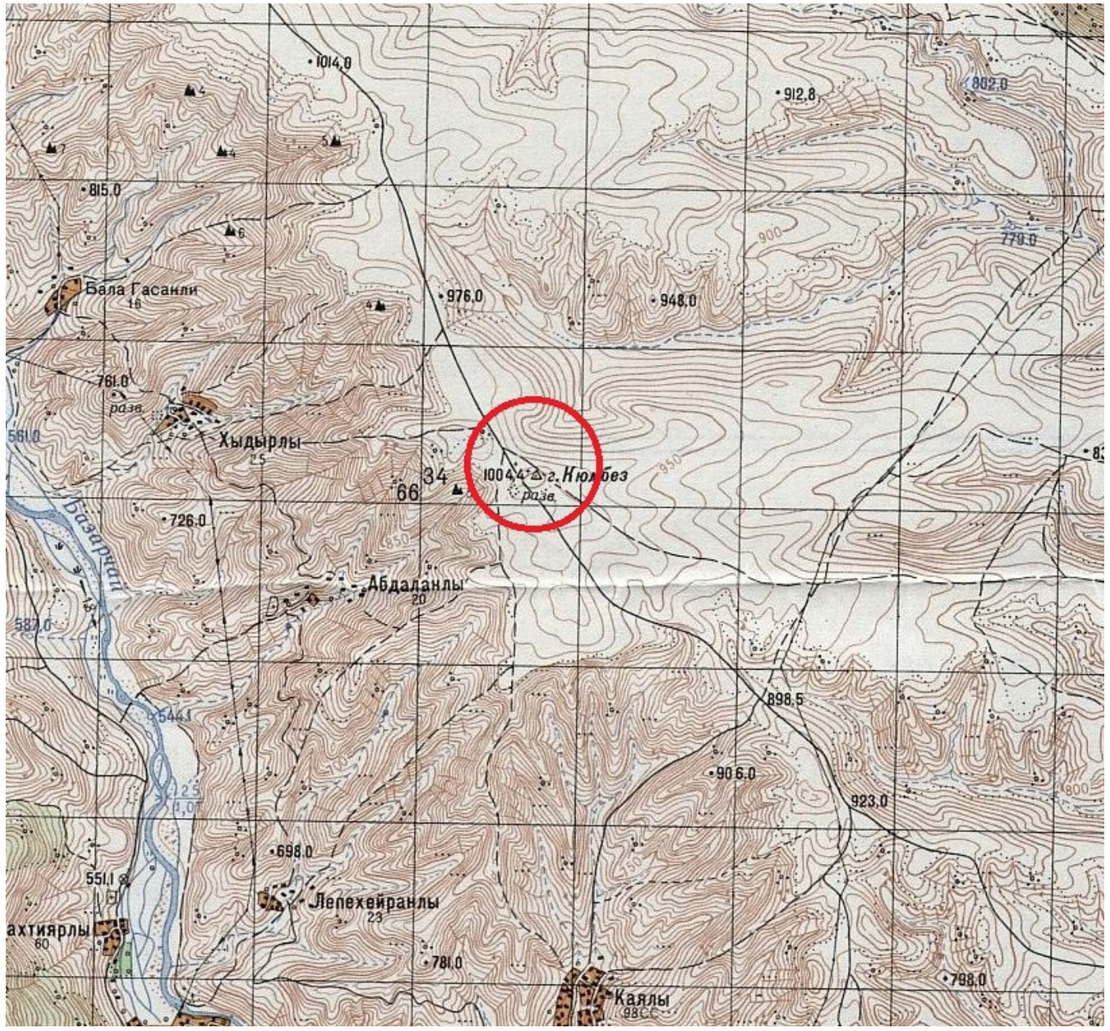
Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in February 2020 (right, bottom) shows that no major changes took place in the area of the cemetery. But the resolution of the available modern satellite coverage and the lack of photographic and video evidence does not allow CHW to make a definitive assessment about the condition of the tombstones during these years.

But between February 2020 and January 2021 (see on p. 115), it appears that trenches were dug across part of the cemetery, appearing as a linear feature that bisects the area roughly in an east-west direction. CHW postulates that these trenches were dug by retreating Armenian forces in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, and likely caused minor damage to the cemetery.



GEOLOCATION

CHW was able to geolocate the cemetery using a topographic map (below), and obtained visual confirmation on the KH-9 Hexagon of 1980 (p. 113, top) and modern satellite imagery (p. 113, bottom and at right).



General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-22-V, 1:50,000, 1974

PANAH ALI KHAN MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4027
39.99329111N / 46.93860162E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Panah Ali Khan Mausoleum, located in the city of Aghdam, is on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4027) as an architectural monument of the 19th century (RAHL 2001). Other scholarly publications describe it as an 18th century mausoleum (Useinov, et al. 1963, 313; Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4).

Due to excessive tree cover, the Hexagon satellite imagery does not allow us to assess the condition of the mausoleum in the 1980s. But available Soviet-era images (see Image Gallery) show that the mausoleum was intact.

Satellite imagery captured in November 12, 2004 (right, top) shows that the mausoleum sustained major damage at some point prior to that date, and it remained in the same condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom). Most of the dome of the mausoleum as well as the upper parts of the walls have been destroyed (see Image Gallery).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum by comparing the images, sketches, and locational description in academic publications (Useinov, et al. 1963, 313; Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4; Emenzade 2013, 200; Salamzade 1964, 62) with recent images of the mausoleum in the Imarat Cemetery. Geolocation also required disambiguation, given that there are other mausolea in close proximity.

IMAGE GALLERY

The mausoleum in Soviet times (back left in both images)

Images: Wikimapia

The mausoleum as of August 17, 2021

Images: Wikimedia

IBRAHIM KHALIL KHAN MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4028
39.99332976N / 46.9387183E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Ibrahim Khalil Khan Mausoleum in the city of Aghdam is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4028) as an architectural monument of the 18th century (RAHL 2001). However, some scholars date the mausoleum to the 19th century (Salamzade 1964, 62; Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4).

Hexagon satellite imagery does not allow us to assess the condition of the mausoleum in the 1980s due to tree cover. But available Soviet-era images (see Image Gallery) of the mausoleum show it was well-preserved.

Comparison of satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, top) and January 2021 (right, bottom) shows that during this period the overall structure and condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged. Images post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment (see Image Gallery).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum through the comparison of images and locational description in academic publications (Salamzade 1964, 62; Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4) with recent images of the mausoleum in the Imarat Cemetery. Precise geolocation also required disambiguating the monument from other mausolea in close proximity.

IMAGE GALLERY

The mausoleum in Soviet times (front left)

The mausoleum as of May-August 2021

Images: Wikimapia

Images: Wikimedia Commons

MEHDIGULU KHAN JAVANSHIR MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4029
39.99322920N/ 46.93833109E

Image: Wikimedia Commmons

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Aghdam, the Mehdigulu Khan Javanshir Mausoleum appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4029) as an architectural monument of the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery does not allow us to understand the condition of the mausoleum in the 1980s due to tree cover. But a Soviet-era photograph (see Image Gallery) shows that the monument was well-preserved and intact.

Comparison of satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, top) and January 2021 (right, bottom) indicates that during this period the overall structure and condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged. Images post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment (see above).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using the description of its location in an academic publication (Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4), along with recent images of the mausolea of the Imarat Cemetery and its mention in a news story. Geolocation also required disambiguating the monument from other mausolea in close proximity.

MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4043
40.15723721N/ 46.84226928E

Status: Indeterminate

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Papravand, in the Aghdam district, this mausoleum appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4043) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

The mausoleum is not visible on Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (right, top), nor was CHW able to locate Soviet-era images, making it impossible to assess its condition in the late Soviet years. Moreover, the earliest publicly available satellite image of the mausoleum that we were able to locate dates to April 2019 (right, bottom). Thus, at present, we are not able to track changes to the condition of the mausoleum over time.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum based on a video and images (a, b, c, d, e) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4044
40.15699723N/ 46.8432412E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

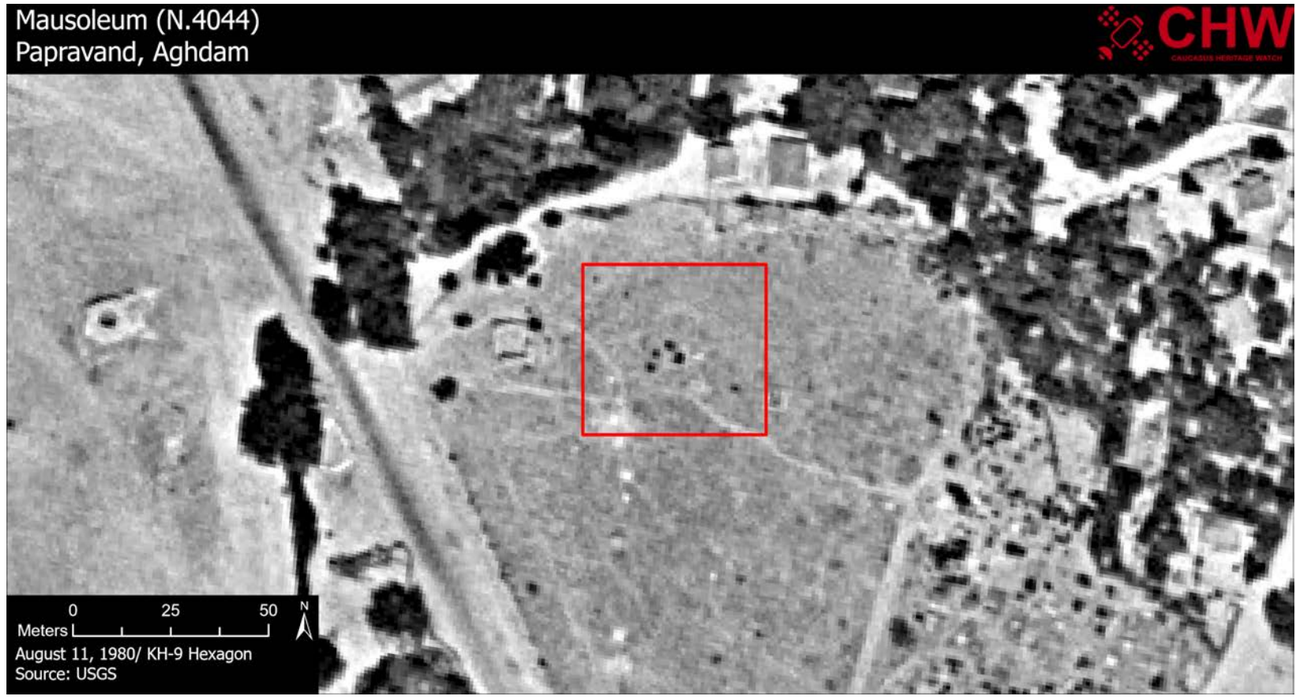
Located in the village of Papravand (Aghdam district), the mausoleum appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No.4044) as an 18th century architectural monument (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery from November 2004 (right, bottom) shows that the condition of the mausoleum did not change significantly in this period. In particular, the roof of the structure had already been removed by the late Soviet period.

The mausoleum remained in this condition until February 2014. At some point between then and April 2019, it was destroyed (see p. 130).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using images (a, b, c, d, e) of Karabakh Center post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.



BASHSYZ MOSQUE

Site N.4045
40.15701986N/ 46.84156811E

Image: Karabakh: Yesterday and today in photos.

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Papravand (Aghdam district), Bashsyz Mosque appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4045) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001). The mosque is not given a name in the official list, but it is known as Bashsyz Mosque (meaning "headless mosque") because its dome was never built (Fatullayev 2020).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery from August 1980 (p. 132, top) to satellite imagery captured in September 2011 (p. 132, bottom) shows that during this interval the mosque remained in the same condition. It was a relatively well-preserved building without a dome.

However, comparison of imagery captured in February 2014 (p. 133, top) and April 2019 (p. 133, bottom) shows that during this period the mosque was largely destroyed, and only one wall of the building remained standing by the time of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War. Images post-dating the 2020 war also confirm that the mosque has been destroyed (a, b, c, d, e).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e) that appeared after the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Bashsyz Mosque (N.4045)
Papravand, Aghdam

Bashsyz Mosque (N.4045)
Papravand, Aghdam

Bashsyz Mosque (N.4045)
Papravand, Aghdam

Bashsyz Mosque (N.4045)
Papravand, Aghdam

MOSQUE

Site N.4046
40.16100278N/ 46.84015573E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This unnamed mosque, located in the village of Papravand (Aghdam district), is included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4046) as dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

The mosque, which occupies the western half of an elongated structure, has sustained major damage. Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery from August 1980 (below) with more recent satellite imagery indicates that the roof of the building had been removed by November 2004 (right, top).

A comparison of satellite images captured in November 2004 (right, top) and August 2021 (right, bottom) shows additional minor damage to the southwestern wall, as confirmed by recent photographs of the monument (a, b).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images disseminated by the Karabakh Center (a, b, c, d, e).

GIYASLY MOSQUE

Site N.4052
40.02089800N/ 46.915986E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Giyasly (Aghdam district), this unnamed mosque appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4052) as dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

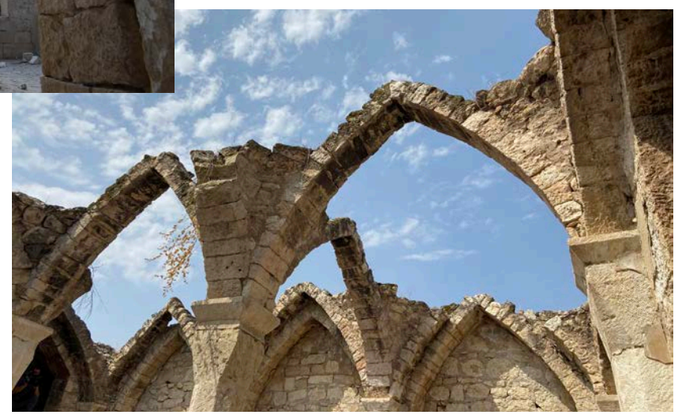
A video taken in the mosque in 1991 confirms that in the early 1990s it was a functional building, suggesting that damage to the structure took place after the First Nagorno-Karabakh War. CHW cross-referenced Hexagon imagery from August 1980 (right, top) and satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, bottom) to determine that the mosque's major damage was most likely sustained between the early 1990s and November 2004 when the roof was removed.

Additional satellite imagery shows that between December 2011 (not shown) and June 2014 (p. 138, top) the mosque and its immediate surroundings to the north and northwest were used for keeping animals and related activities. It remained this way until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (p. 138, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images and videos (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAGE GALLERY



Images: Wikimedia Commons

BOYAHMADLI MOSQUE

Site N.4054
40.13172100N/ 46.864963E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Boyahmadli Mosque (Aghdam district) is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4054) as a 19th or 20th century structure (RAHL 2001). It is listed without a name, but here we refer to it as Boyahmadli Mosque due to its location in the village of the same name.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in August 2021 (right, bottom) shows that the condition of the mosque has not substantially changed. The building was already missing its roof in the 1980s.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, in which a person mentions and shows the mosque of the village. The mosque also appears in a video disseminated by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, although the structure is not mentioned.

MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4055
40.09432593N/ 46.87247063E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

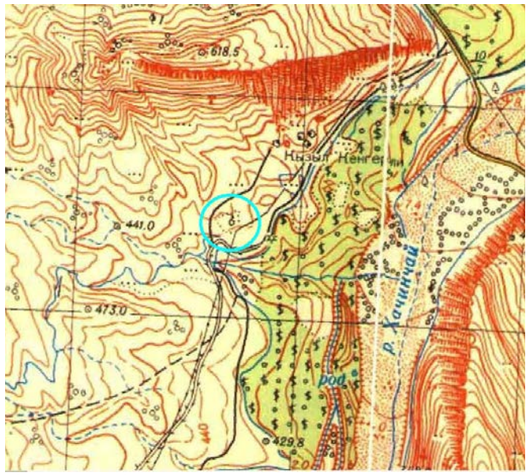
This mausoleum in the village of Gyzyl Kangarl (Aghdam district) appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4055) as a 14th century structure (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the mausoleum has not changed in recent decades.

Image: RAA 2010, 20.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a Soviet 1:25K scale topographic map from 1975.



The mausoleum on a 1975 Soviet 1:25K topographic map (Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography of USSR Ministries' Council, A-40-28-G-v, 1:25,000, 1975).

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: RAA 2010, 20.

MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4056
39.96880400N/ 46.8608E

Image: Panoramio

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the Garaaghach cemetery in the village of Ahmadavar (Aghdam district), this mausoleum appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4056) dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged during this period.

But the mausoleum was razed at some point between December 28, 2011 (p. 146, top) and June 14, 2014 (p. 146, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW found an image of the mausoleum in an academic publication (Useinov, et al. 1963, 313), then identified the same site in a video that confirmed its geolocation on satellite imagery.

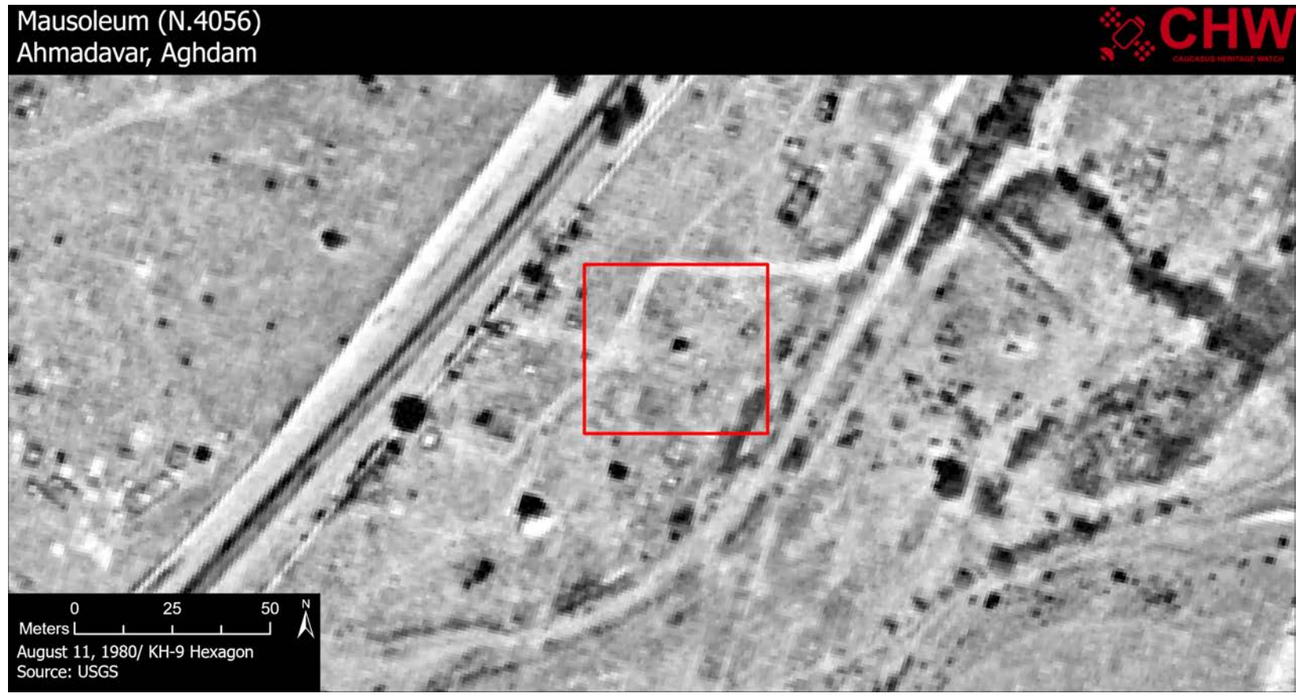


IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimapia; Panoramio.

MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4057
39.97386620N/ 46.8625229E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

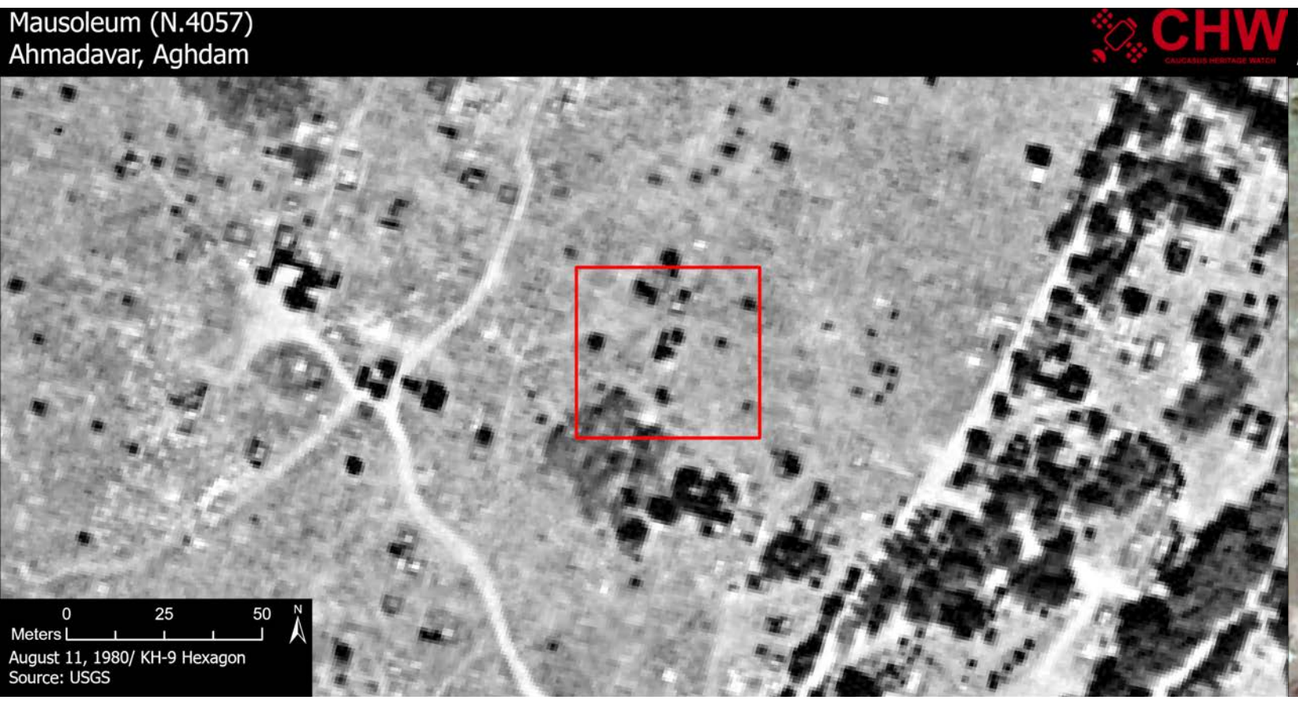
Located in Garaaghach cemetery in the village of Ahmadavar (Adghdam district), this mausoleum appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4057) as an architectural monument constructed during the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (see storymap) and 2011 (right, top) shows that the overall condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged during this period.

But the mausoleum was later destroyed at some point between December 28, 2011 and June 14, 2014 (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum through visual identification on historical satellite imagery.



UGHURLU BEY MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4058
39.96840500N/ 46.860425E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

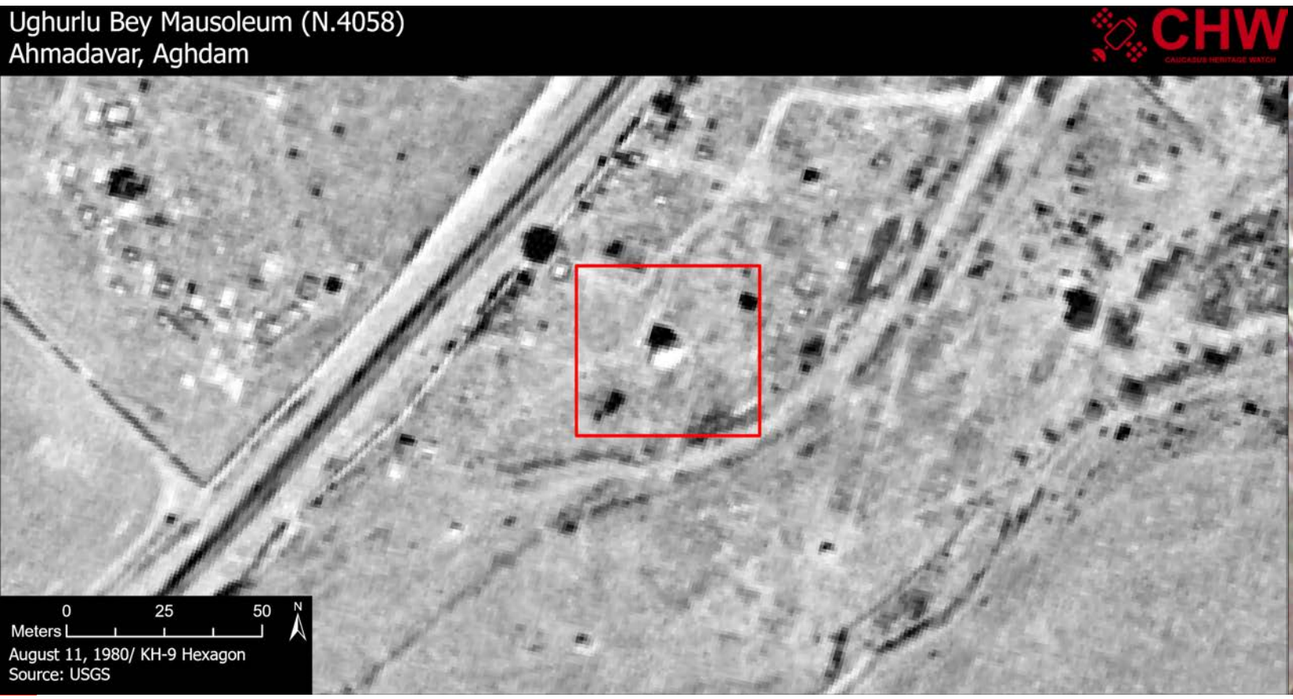
Located in the Garaaghach cemetery in the village of Ahmadavar (Adghdam district), the Ughurlu Bey Mausoleum appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4058) as built during the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (see storymap) and again in December 2011 (right, top) shows that the overall condition of the mausoleum did not change during this period. The mausoleum was razed to ground at some point between December 28, 2011 and June 14, 2014 (right, bottom).

Image: RAA 2010, 28.

GEOLOCATION

CHW found an image of the mausoleum in two academic publications (Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 14; Useinov, et al. 1963, 313), and identified the same structure in a video, which we used to geolocate the mausoleum. The mausoleum is also marked on a 1:50K scale map of 1981 (see storymap).



KHUBYARLY MAUSOLEUM (ROUND MAUSOLEUM)

Site N.4164
39.41020302N/ 46.99603928E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 279.

Located in the village of Khubyarly (Jabrayil district), the Round Mausoleum is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4164) as a 17th century monument (RAHL 2001). Scholars have noted that aspects of its form are inspired by mausolea of the 13-14th centuries (Useinov, et al. 1963, 278).

The comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery of July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum has remained unchanged in recent decades.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum through its visual identification on historical and modern satellite imagery and available Soviet period images (see Image Gallery).

IMAGE GALLERY

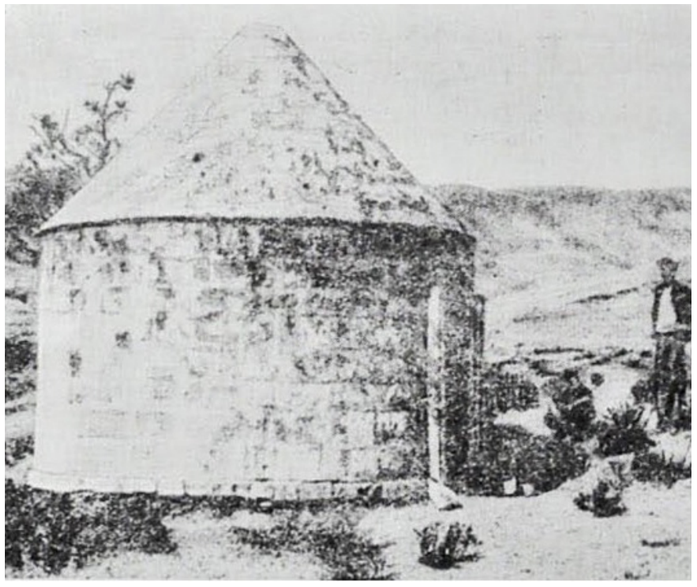
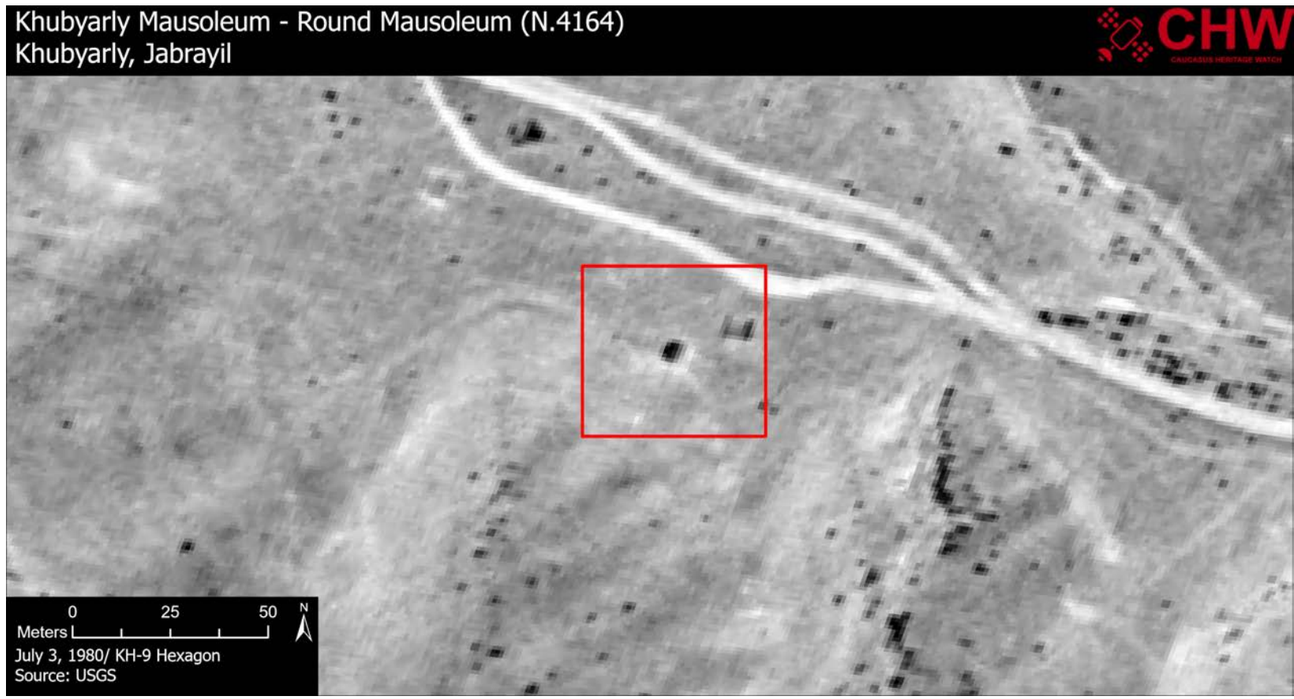
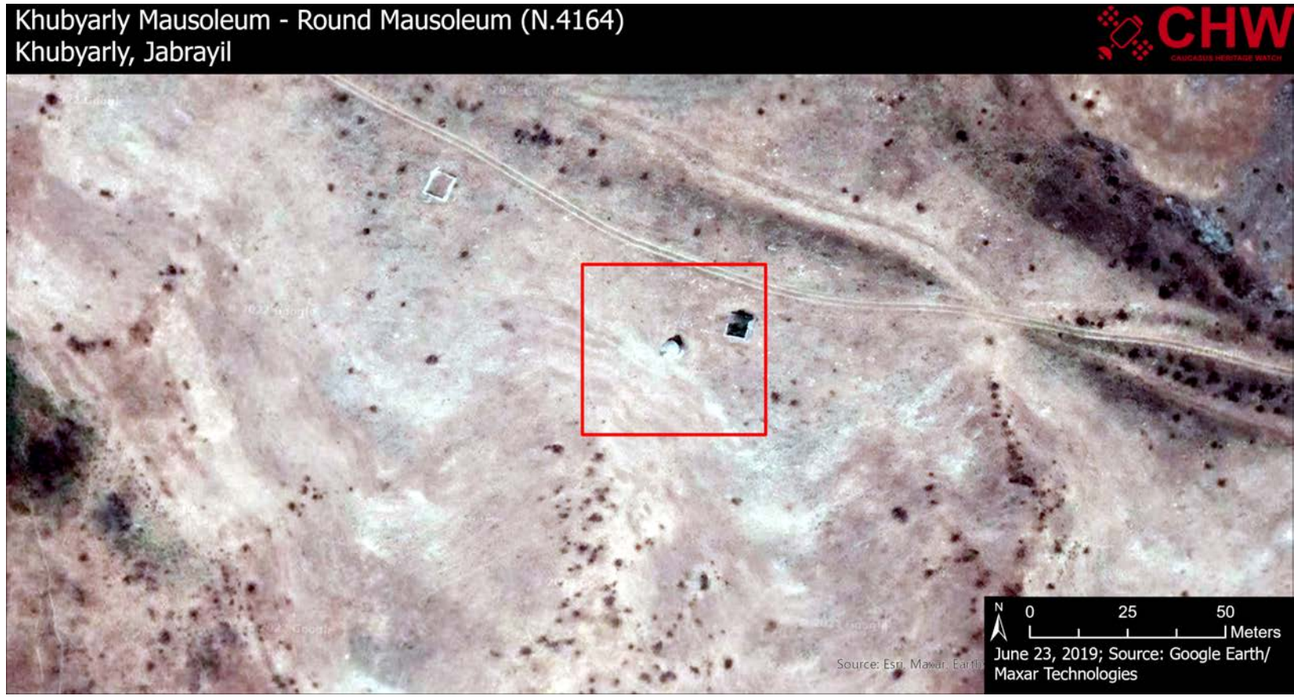


Image: Salamzade 1964, 54.





KHUBYARLY (OCTAGONAL) MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4165
39.40644121N/ 47.00713454E

Status: Unchanged

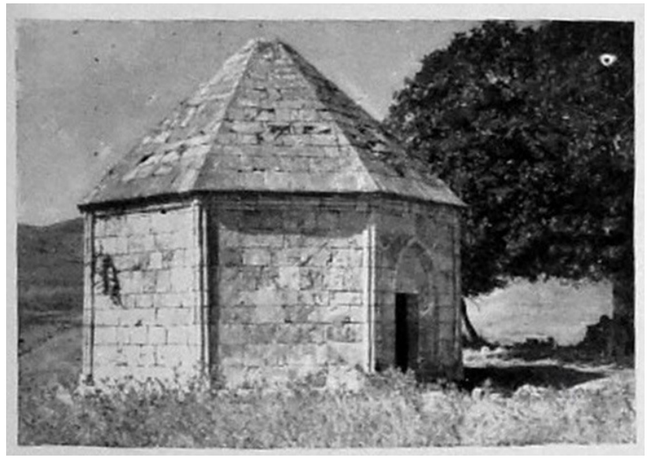


Image: Useinov, et al. 1963, 279.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

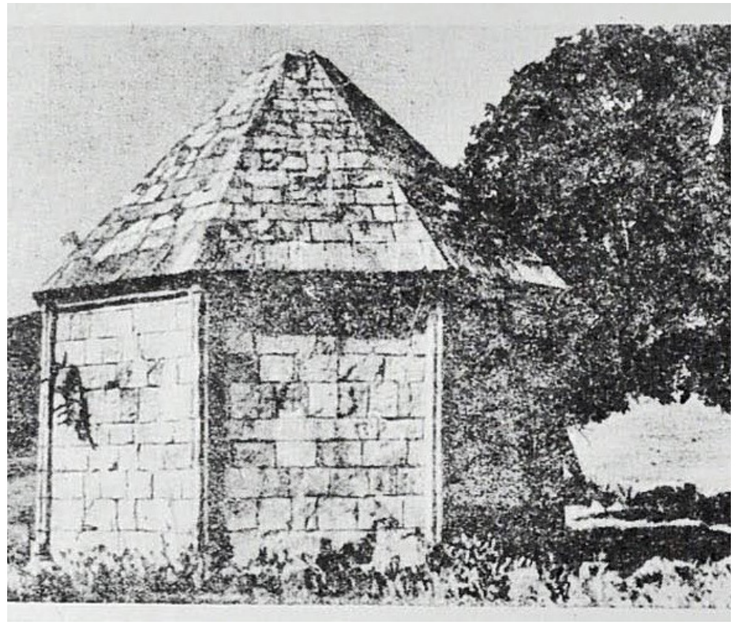
The Octagonal Mausoleum, located in the village of Khubyarly (Jabrayil district), is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4165) as a 17th century monument (RAHL 2001). Scholars have noted that aspects of its form appear to have been inspired by mausolea of the 13th-14th centuries (Useinov, et al. 1963, 278).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum has not changed in recent decades.

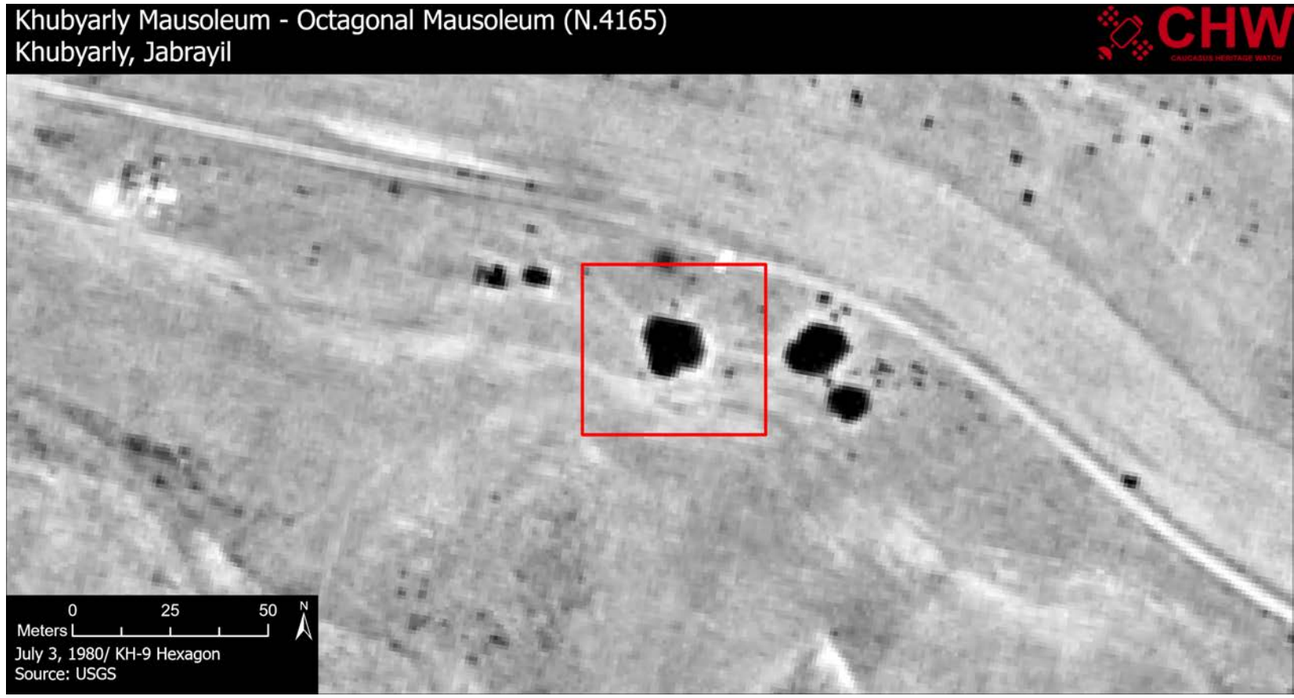
GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum through its visual identification on historical and modern satellite imagery and available Soviet period images (see Image Gallery).

IMAGE GALLERY



Images: Salamzade 1964, 54.



SHYKHLAR MAUSOLEUM (ROUND MAUSOLEUM)

Site N.4166
39.44218500N/ 46.862456E

Status: Unchanged

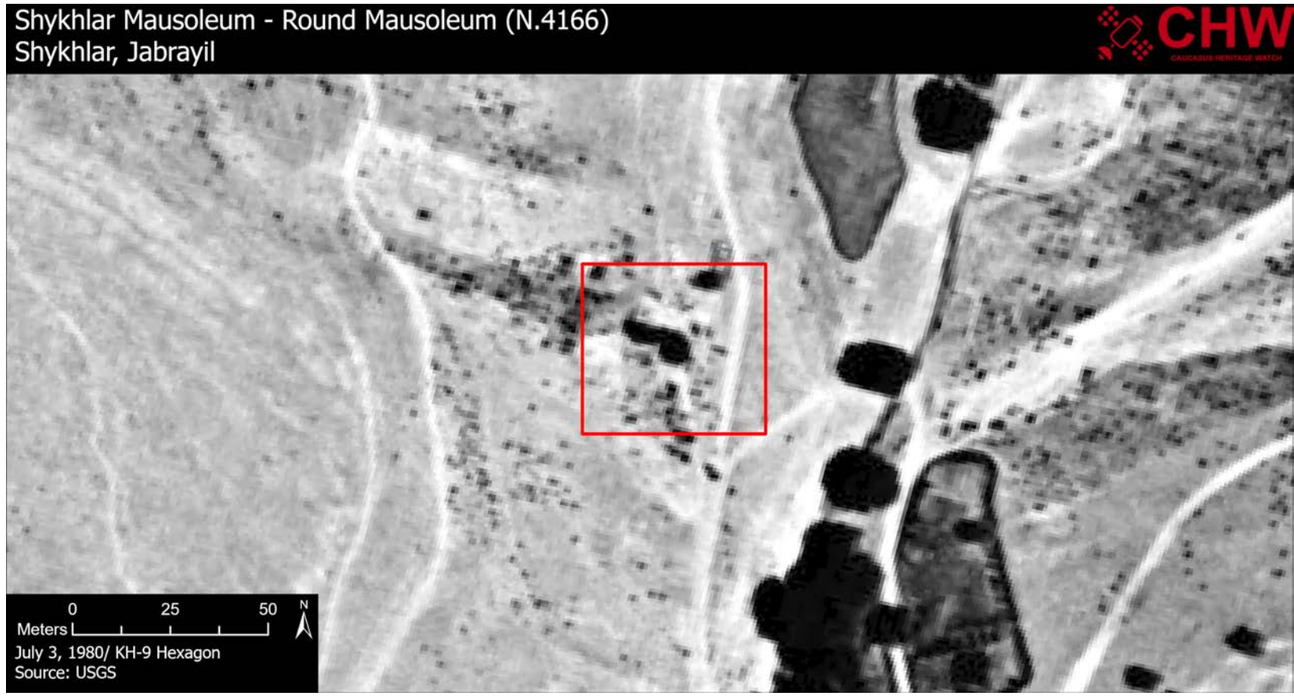
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Shykhlar (Jabrayil district), the Round Mausoleum appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4166) (RAHL 2001) as a 14th century mausoleum (RAHL 2001; Nemet 1992, 16-17; Nemet 2010).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in October 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure of the mausoleum has remained unchanged in recent decades. A video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirms this assessment of the monument. According to some claims, the upper part of the mausoleum was destroyed by Armenian forces in 1993. But a photograph in a publication dated to 1992 (Nemet 1992) depicts the mausoleum with a juniper tree rising out of the dome, demonstrating that this element was already damaged.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.



DAGH TUMAS MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4169
39.37112135N/ 46.76298677E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Dagh Tumas (Jabrayil district), this mausoleum (tomb) is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4169) as a 13/14th-century mausoleum (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in October 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the mausoleum did not change in recent decades. A 2019 video confirms this assessment.

Image: RAA 2010, 23.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:50K scale topographic map of 1974 (below).

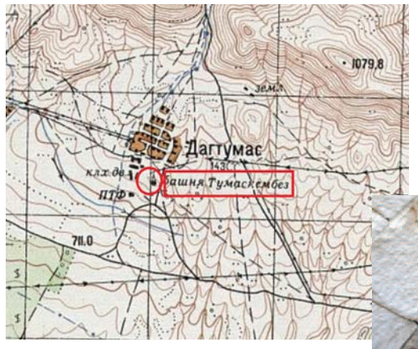
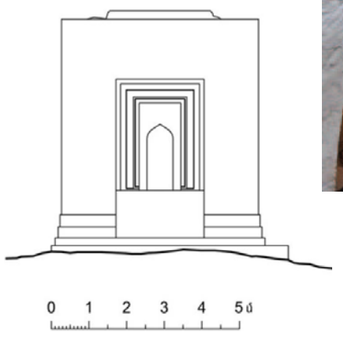


IMAGE GALLERY



Images: RAA 2010, 22-23.

CHALABILAR MOSQUE

Site N.4170
39.38853858N/ 46.82710843E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Chalabilar (Jabrayil district), this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4170) as a 19th-century monument (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in November 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the mosque did not change during this time period. A video and images (a, b, c, d, e) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video and images (a, b, c, d, e) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

PAPY MOSQUE

Site N.4171
39.40453540N/ 47.077334E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Papy (Jabrayil district) this mosque is on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4171) as dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

A comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in May 2010 (right, bottom) shows that the mosque was largely destroyed during this period. Images (a, b) of the mosque post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also confirm that the mosque is in ruins.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

DASHKASAN MOSQUE

Site N.4172
39.42731100N/ 47.1065690E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Dashkasan (Jabrayil district), this mosque is included on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4172), but a date is not provided (RAHL 2001). The Ministry of Culture indicates a 19th century date, but one of the two inscriptions on either side of the entrance provides more specific information, indicating that the mosque was built in 1323 Hijri (1905 AD).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in November 2003 (right, bottom) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roof was removed. The structural condition of the mosque remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War in which a former resident of the village shows the mosque.

SULEYMANLY MOSQUE

Site N.4174
39.46512200N/ 47.070103E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Suleymanly (Jabrayil district), the Suleymanly Mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4174) as a monument constructed during the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, bottom) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roof was torn down. The mosque remained in this same condition in subsequent years.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

HAJI ALAKBAR MOSQUE

Site N.4208
39.59563160N/ 47.14520875E

Status: Destroyed

Image: Wikimapia

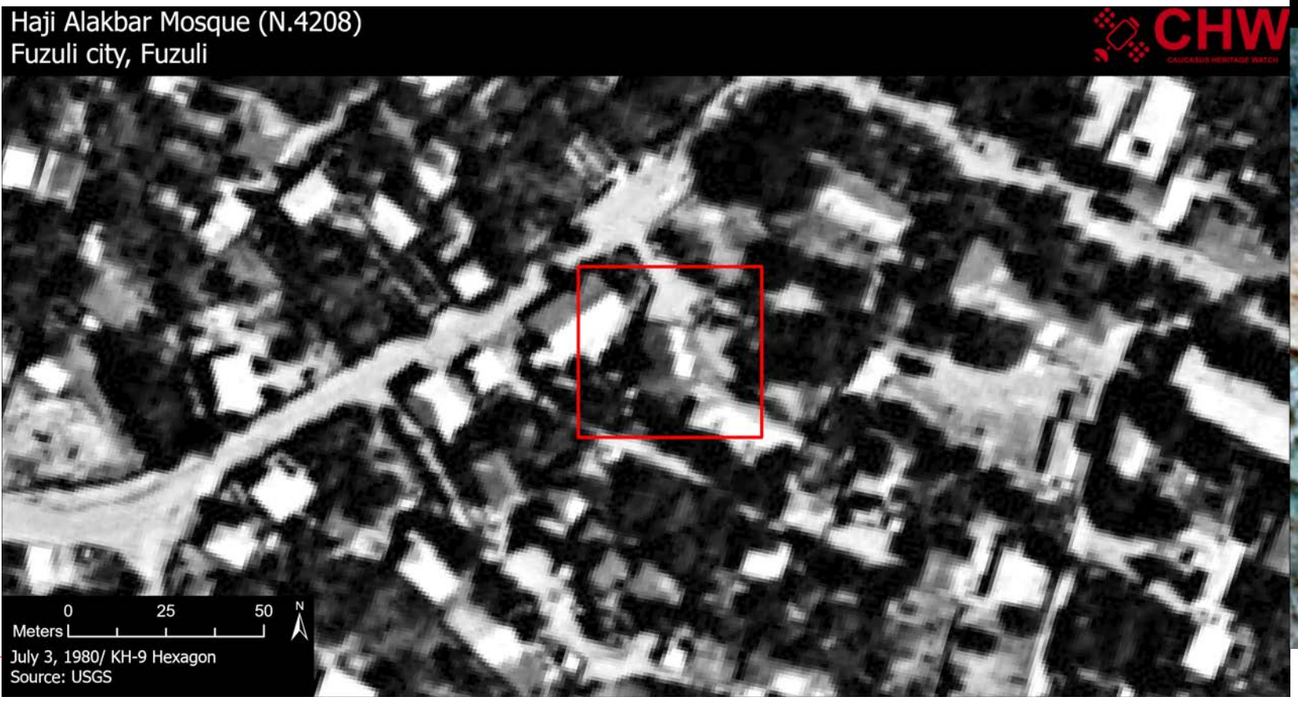
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Fuzuli, Haji Alakbar Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4208) as a 17th-century monument (RAHL 2001). Another source provides a founding date in the 19th century (1889-1890) (Garabaghli 2019).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) shows that the overall structure of the mosque remained unchanged in this period, except that the modern roofing installed during the Soviet period had been removed. Later satellite imagery shows that the mosque was subsequently razed between June 14, 2017 (see storymap) and August 28, 2019 (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque through its visual identification on historical satellite imagery.



HAJI GIYASEDDIN MOSQUE

Site N.4212
39.53892900N/ 47.157409E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Garghabazar of the Fuzuli district, Haji Giyaseddin Mosque is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 4212) as an architectural monument of the 17th century (RAHL 2001; Useinov, et al. 1963, 247; Salamzade 1964, 39).

Image: RAA 2010, 32.

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure of the mosque did not change over this period. Videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment of its overall structural integrity. But these videos also show that the mosque was used as a barn before the war. Satellite imagery shows that an area to the north of the mosque was cleared, possibly for keeping animals, between August 2014 and August 2019.

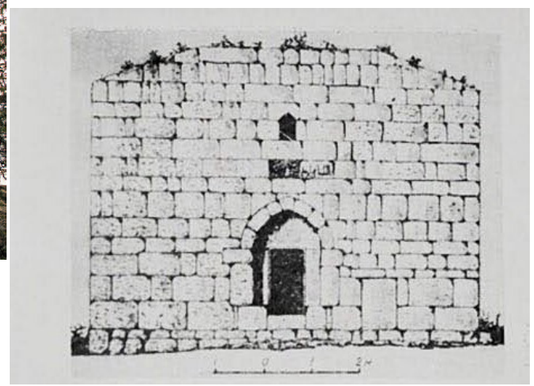
GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using several videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAGE GALLERY

Image: RAA 2010, 32.

The mosque prior to the 2020 Karabakh War



Images Salamzade 1964, 39.

GARGHABAZAR MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4213
39.55449626N/ 47.16635942E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Garghabazar (Fuzuli district), the Garghabazar Mausoleum is on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4213) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001). According to one scholarly publication, however, the mausoleum dates to 1889-1890 (Garabaghli 1995). The monument is also known as the Jalil Mausoleum (Garabaghli 1995; Aghayev 2013).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery from March 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged during this period. A Soviet-era image of the back of the mausoleum as well as its sketch and plan in a 1995 publication (Garabaghli 1995) show that it was already partially destroyed and collapsing.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1984 Soviet 1:25K scale topographic map (below).

The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map from 1984
(General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-23-A-b, 1:25,000).

DADALI MOSQUE

Site N.4214
39.58477718N/ 47.16553213E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Dadali (Fuzuli district), this mosque appears on the list of the heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4214) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery of July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, bottom), shows that the mosque sustained major damage. Its roofing was removed at some point prior to March 2005 and since then it has remained in this damaged condition.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

QAJAR MOSQUE

Site N.4216
39.64934300N/ 47.057888E

Status: Major damage

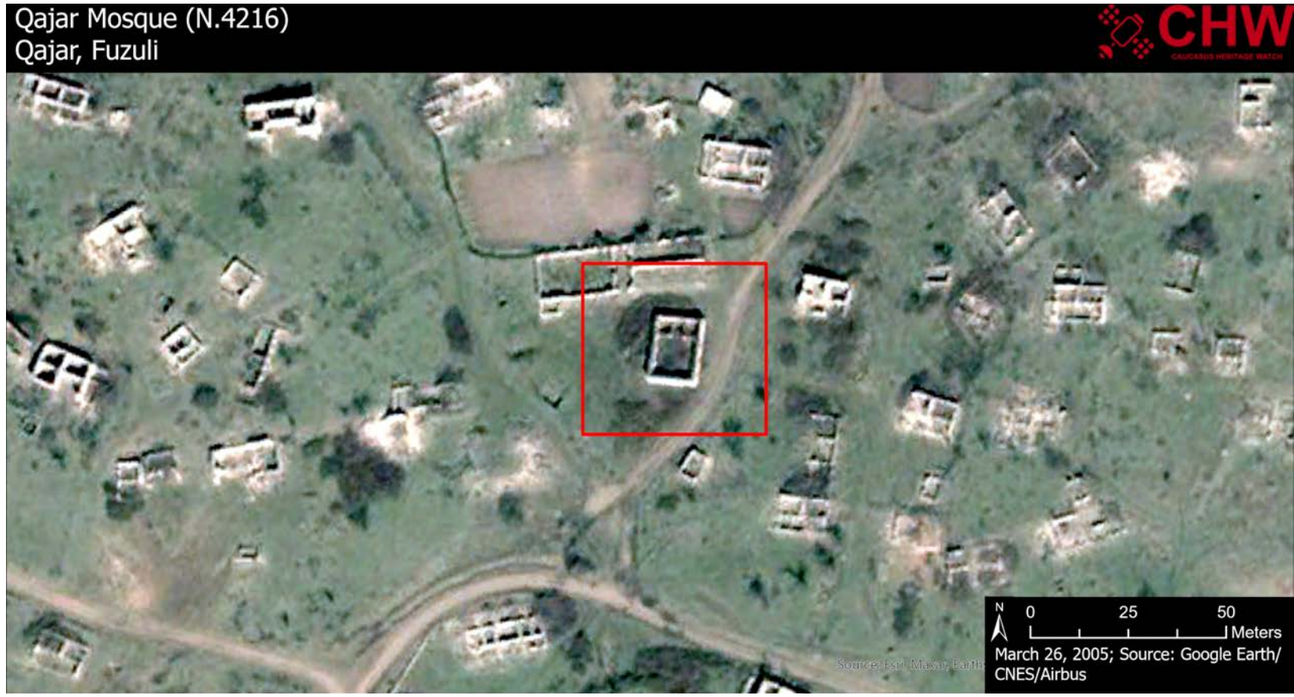
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Qajar (Fuzuli district), this mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4216) as an architectural monument constructed during the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roof was removed. By 2010, the northern part of the building had been partially re-roofed (see storymap). And by 2013, the structure was again fully covered, suggesting that it was repurposed over time (right, bottom). Later satellite imagery on GoogleEarth shows that by 2018, the areas to the north and west of the mosque were cleared and transformed into what appear to be animal pens. The latter re-use of the building is also confirmed by videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using two videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.



MERDINLI MOSQUE

Site N.4217
39.59946500N/ 47.262528E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Merdinli, in the Fuzuli district, the Merdinli Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4217) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in April 2010 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roofing was removed. Sometime between April 2012 and August 2019, the building was repurposed and over the course of the following year, the exterior area to the east of the mosque was turned into an animal pen (right, bottom). Videos (a, b) and an image post-dating 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm that the mosque was used as a barn.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using two videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

JUMA MOSQUE

Site N.4220
39.45162901N/ 47.23188019E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

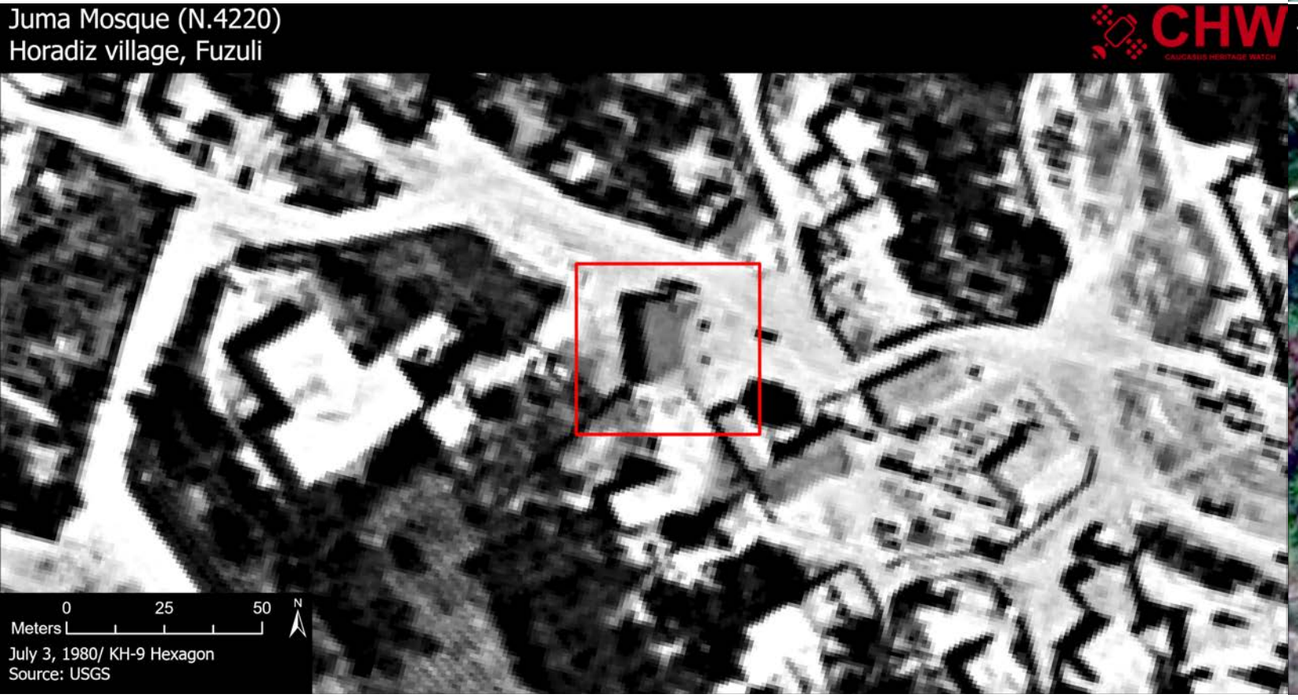
Located in the city of Horadiz, in the Fuzuli district, the Juma Mosque appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4220) as an architectural monument dating to 1889 (RAHL 2001). Another source dates its construction to 1890-1891 (Garabaghli 2019).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) indicates that, although the Soviet-era exterior covering was removed, exposing the original domed roof, the structure remained in sound condition. Numerous images (a, b, c, d, e, f) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm that the structure remains in good condition.

While the minaret seen in some of these photographs may appear damaged, this element was added in the early 1990s and was never completed. It is for this reason that the shadow of the minaret does not appear on the Hexagon image (below), nor in a photo montage in which the building is visible from the east (0:15). A publication (Garabaghli 2019) also provides an image of the mosque, likely captured in 1991, that shows construction of the minaret underway. The mosque remained in the same condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video and images (a, b) post-dating the 2020 war.



MOSQUE

Site N.4221
39.45198862N/ 47.23824423E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Horadiz (Fuzuli district), this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4221) as an architectural monument dating to the 20th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when, at some point between the early 1990s and 2005, the roof of the structure was removed. Between March 11, 2005, and April 8, 2010, the mosque was damaged further when its northern half was destroyed during the construction of an adjacent trench (right, bottom). The half-destroyed mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War. Its dilapidated state is confirmed by images (a, b, c) and a video post-dating the 2020 war.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

IMAMZADEH MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4222
39.43978535N/ 47.24874054E

Image: Muhaz.org

Status: Unchanged

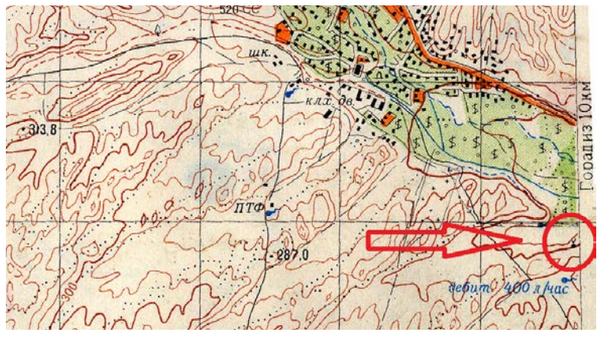
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Imamzadeh Mausoleum, located in the city of Horadiz (Fuzuli district), is on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4222) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of a KH-9 Hexagon image from July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the condition of the mausoleum did not change during this period. Photographs (a, b) and a video post-dating the 2020 Karabakh War further confirm that the structure is well-preserved. Satellite imagery available on Google Earth dated October 2, 2020, shows minor damage to the north-eastern corner of the structure sustained just after the September 18, 2020, image, most likely during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War. The damage can also be seen on recent images of the mausoleum.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a video post-dating the 2020 Karabakh War. The mausoleum is also marked on a 1:50K scale map of 1973 (below).



The mausoleum on a 1:50K scale map of 1973 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, K-38-23-V, 1:50,000).

GEJAGOZLU MOSQUE

Site N.4223
39.57703600N/ 47.202662E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mosque takes its name from the village of Gejagozlu (Fuzuli district), where it is located. It is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4223) as an architectural monument dated to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

CHW compared KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in April 2010 (right, top) to determine that the mosque sustained major damage with the removal of its roof. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the structure based on an image and a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War in which a former resident of the area points out the mosque.

YUKHARY SEYIDAHMADLI MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4226
39.56602500N/ 47.256408E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

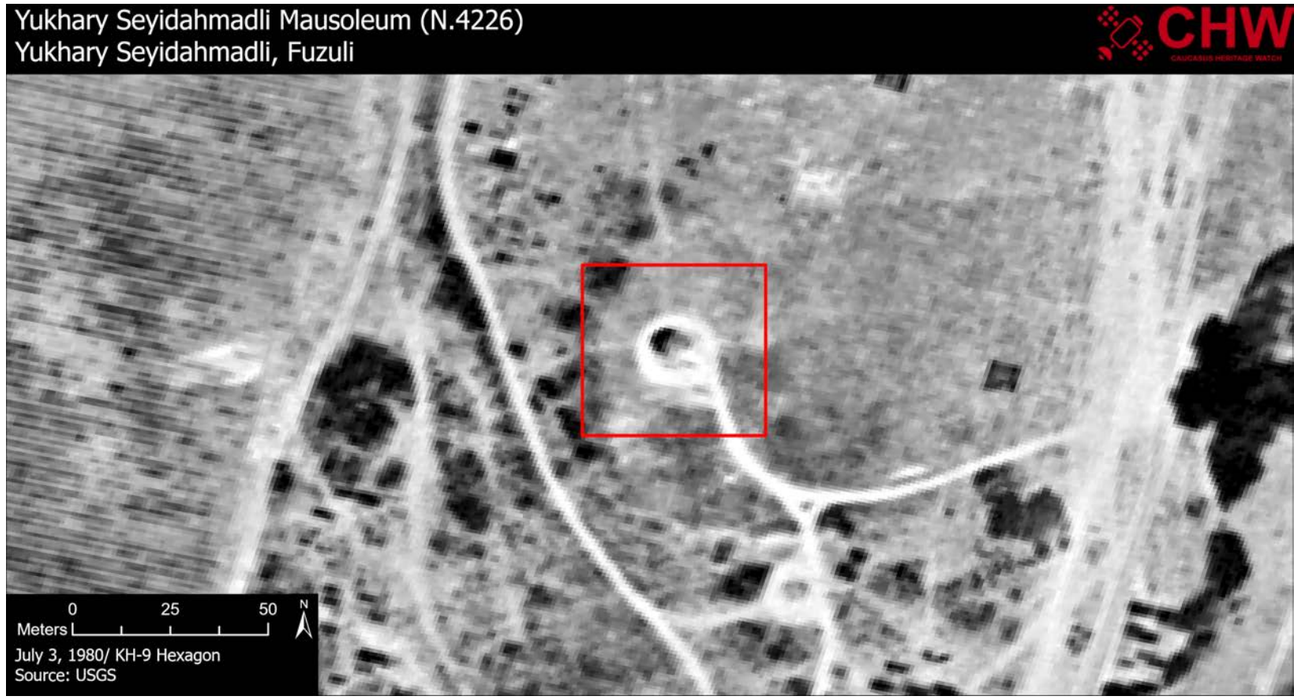
Located in the village of Seyidahmadli (Fuzuli district), the Yukhary Seyidahmadli Mausoleum appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4226) as an architectural monument from the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) and satellite imagery captured in October 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mausoleum has remained unchanged over this period. Images (a, b, c, d) and a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm that the monument is well-preserved.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:50K scale map from 1973.

The mausoleum on a 1:50K scale map from 1973
(General Staff of the Soviet Army, K-38-23-B, 1:50,000).



SARDARLI MOSQUE

Site N.4231
39.53130032N/ 47.14101728E

Status: Unchanged

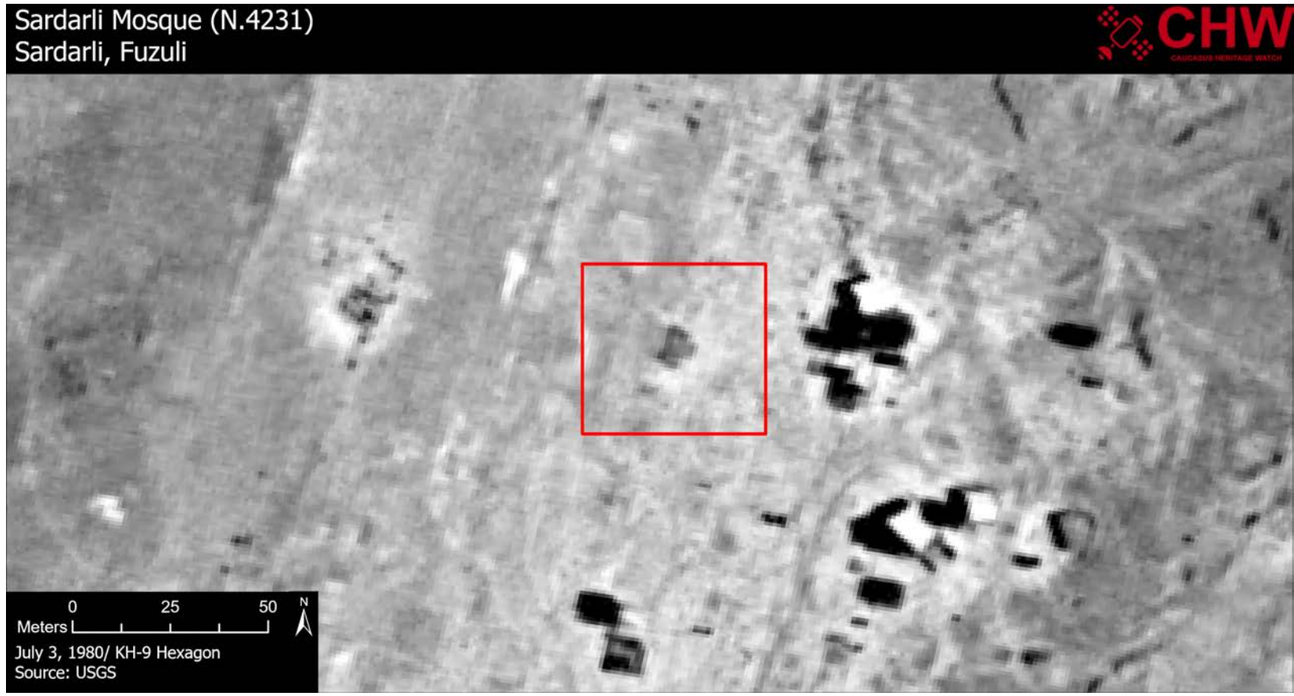
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Sardarli Mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4231) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001). According to the official listing, it is located in the village of Gochahmadli (Fuzuli district), but its correct location is the village of Sardarli, as the name implies.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with imagery captured in March 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and shape of the mosque has remained unchanged. The roof is intact and the structure appears sound. Images (a, b) and a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also confirm the well-preserved condition of the mosque structure.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center, and video and photographic evidence linked above. The Azerbaijan monuments registry lists the official name of the mosque as Sardarli Mosque, but incorrectly locates the mosque in Gochahmadli village. Images from the Karabakh Center allowed CHW to confirm that the mosque is the only standing building in Sardarli village.



GOCHAHMADLI MOSQUE

Site N.4233
39.53838325N/ 47.1240098E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Gochahmadli (Fuzuli district), this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4233) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001). However, another source indicates that it was constructed in 1905-1906 (Garabaghli 2019, 69).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in March 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mosque remained unchanged in this period, except that the structure's Soviet-era roofing was removed to expose the traditional domed roof. The domed roof remained largely intact, but photographs (a, b, c, d) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War show that one of the domes has a hole in it that is not visible in the satellite imagery. The photographs also show minor damage to the facade of the building.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on images (a, b) post-dating the 2020 war.

GARADAGHLY MOSQUE

Site N.4237
39.51166034N/ 47.077093E

Status: Unchanged

Image: RAA 2010, 34.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Garadaghly Mosque, located in the village of the same name in the Fuzuli district, appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4237) as an architectural monument of the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

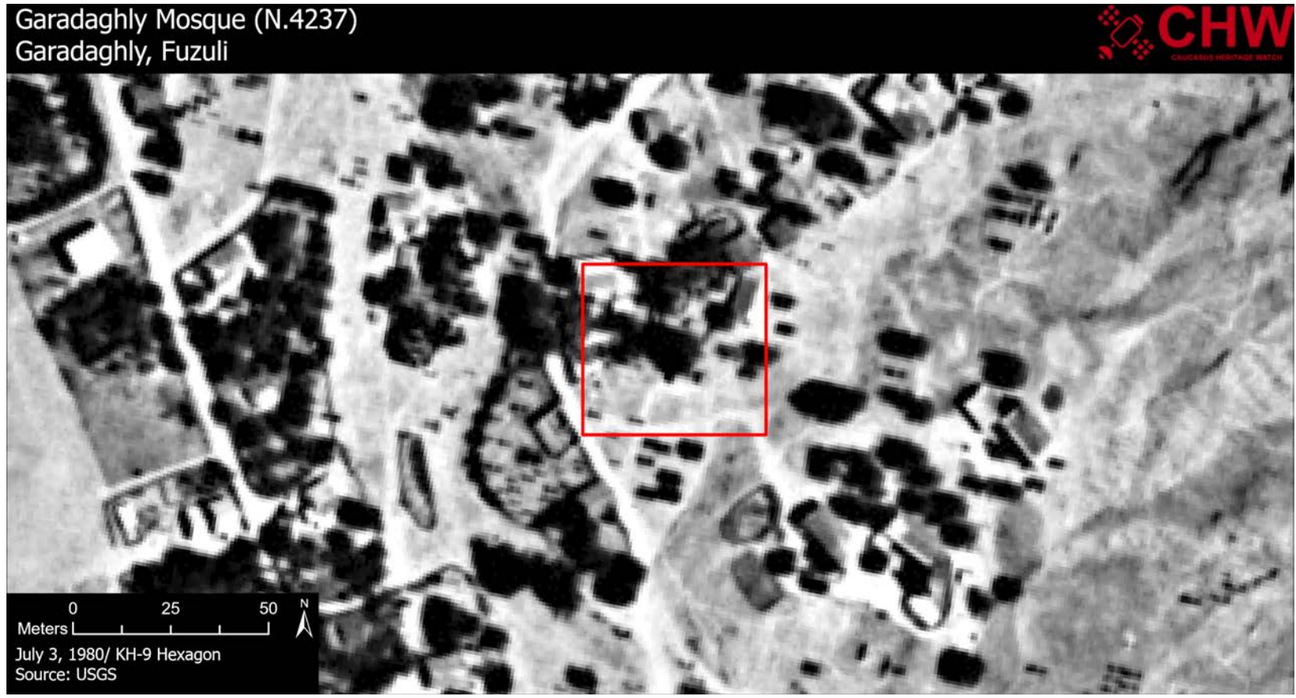
Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with imagery captured in June 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mosque has remained unchanged. The well-preserved condition of the mosque building is also confirmed by a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video post-dating the 2020 war.

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: RAA 2010, 34.



PIRAHMADLI MOSQUE

Site N.4239
39.47233000N/ 47.1652510E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mosque takes its name from the village of Pirahmadli (Fuzuli district) where it is located. It appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of cultural heritage sites (inventory No. 4239) as an architectural monument of the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) indicates that the mosque sustained major damage during this period when its roof was removed. After March 2005, parts of the mosque's walls were also heavily impacted such that CHW assesses the mosque as destroyed (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

KARAKHANBEYLI MOSQUE

Site N.4240
39.60212510N/ 47.27984841E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Karakhanbeyli (Fuzuli district), this mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of cultural heritage sites (inventory No. 4210) as an architectural monument constructed during the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with imagery captured in April 2010 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage with the removal of its roof. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

DAMIRCHILAR MOSQUE

Site N.4703
39.3171950N/46.6009570E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Damirchilar (Qubadli district), this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4703) as a 19th century architectural monument (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structure and condition of the mosque did not change. The well-preserved condition of the building is also confirmed by images (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

DONDARLY MOSQUE

Site N.4704
39.307992N/ 46.609547E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Dondarly (Qubadli district), this mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4704) as a 19th century monument (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mosque has remained unchanged over recent decades. Images and videos (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War further confirm that the mosque is well preserved.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using videos (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

KHODZHAMUSAKHLY MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4708
39.32209400N/ 46.5691010E

Status: Unchanged

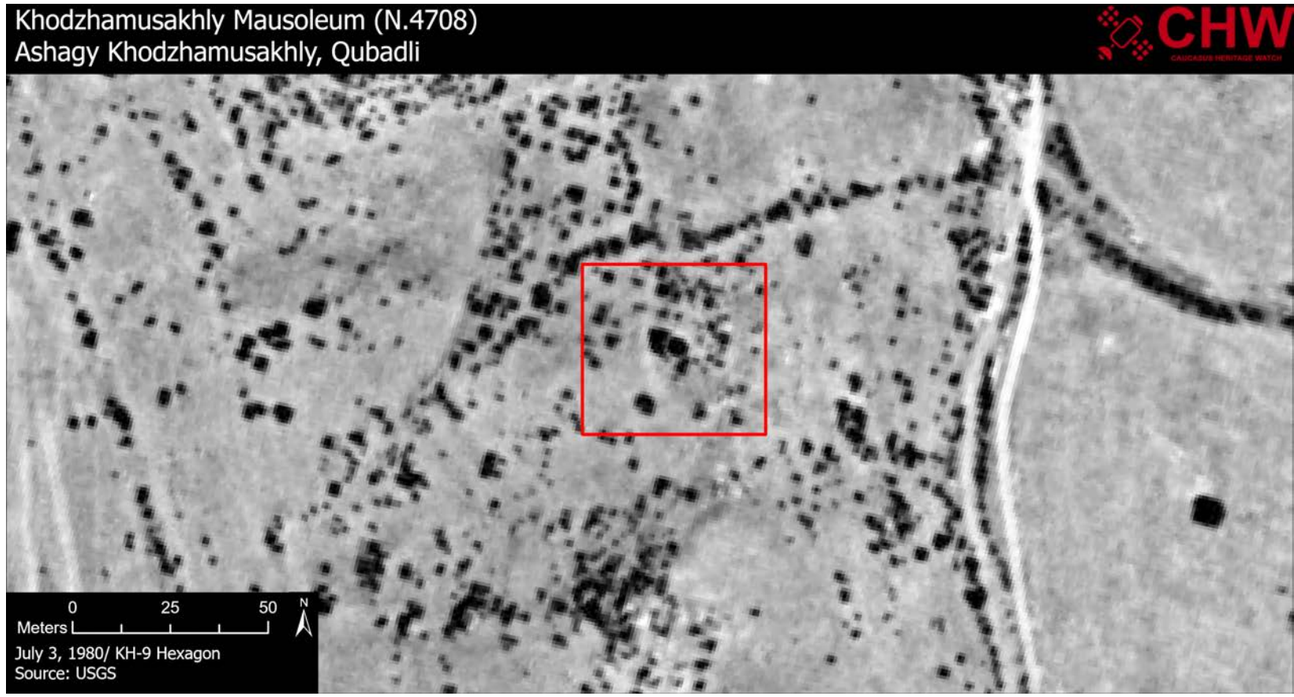
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The mausoleum takes its name from the Khodzhamusakhly village in which it is located (Qubadli district). It is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4708) as an 18th century structure (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mausoleum has not changed. An image post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirms that the monument is well preserved.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using an image post-dating the 2020 war.



YUSIFBEYLI MOSQUE

Site N.4709
39.32046300N/ 46.704728E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Yusifbeyli (Qubadli district), this mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4709) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in March 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mosque has remained unchanged. Images (a, b, c) and videos post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm the the mosque remained in sound condition after the conflict.

However, the mosque was destroyed in the course of road construction after the November 2020 ceasefire, when it was under Azerbaijani jurisdiction. CHW reported the destruction of the mosque in our June 2021 Monitoring Report. There, it was referred to as the Aygek Mosque and given the number LN.004-0, based on information provided on the monument list of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using videos (a, b) and images post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

BOYUNAKYAR MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4710
39.24604171N/ 46.642379E

Status: Major damage

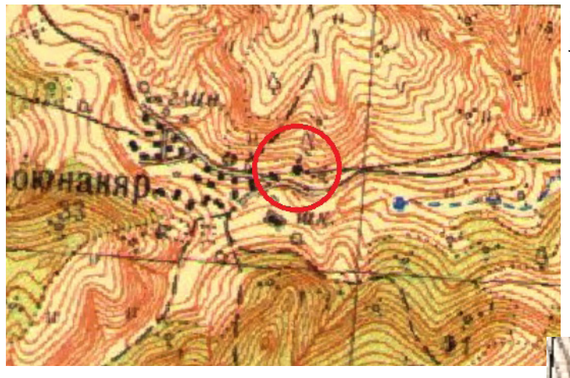
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Boyunakyar (Qubadli district) this mausoleum appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4710) as dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) and satellite imagery captured in September 2022 (right, bottom) appears to show that the overall condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged. But comparison of images (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War with a Soviet period image of the mausoleum in this video (at 0:24) shows that it sustained major damage. Thus, although the satellite imagery does not allow precise characterization of the damage and its timing, CHW concludes that major damage was inflicted on the monument at some point, likely between the early 1990s and the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on 1:25K and 1:50K scale topographic maps of the Soviet Army General Staff.



General Staff of the Soviet Army,
J-38-34-A-g, 1:25,000, 1956.

General Staff of the Soviet Army,
J-38-34-A, 1:50,000, 1974.

MIRLAR MOSQUE

Site N.4712
39.302841N/46.634663E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Mirlar (Qubadli district) this mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 4712) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in April 2016 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roof was removed. At some point between June 2019 and March 2020, the mosque building was given a new roof (right, bottom), but the purpose of the refurbished structure remains unknown.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

MAMAR MOSQUE

Site N.4713
39.25443300N/ 46.691901E

Status: Major damage

Image: Wikimedia Commons

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Mamar, in the Qubadli district, this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4713) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roofing was torn down. From October 2009 until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, the mosque building remained in this damaged condition (right, bottom). Videos post-dating the war show that while the area was under Armenian administration, the remaining structure was used for keeping animals.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

KHALAJ MOSQUE

Site N.4714
39.36512400N/46.531249E

Status: Unchanged

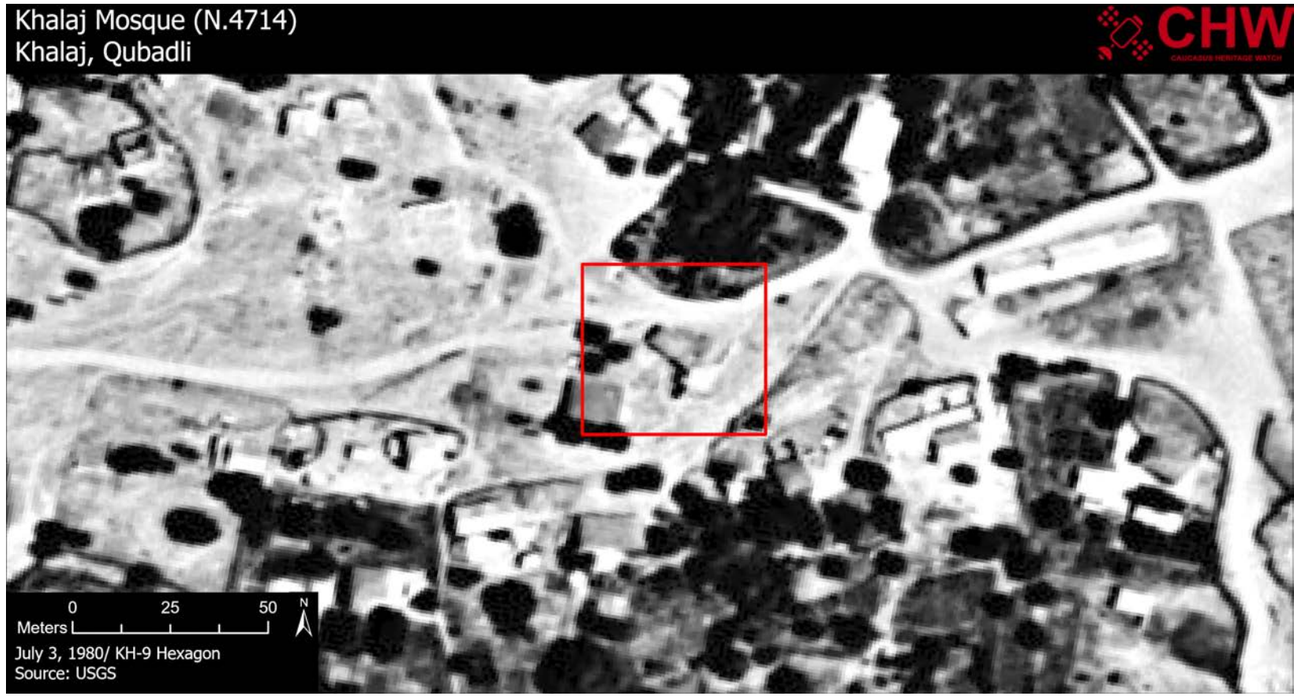
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Khalaj, in the Qubadli district, the Khalaj mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4714) as an architectural monument dating to the 15th -16th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2022 (right, bottom) shows that the overall condition of the mosque has not changed. Videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also attest that the structure is well-preserved.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.



MOSQUE

Site N.4716
39.23775756N/ 46.73330848E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

According to the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites, this 19th century mosque (inventory No. 4716) is located in Mahruzlu village (RAHL 2001). Karabakh Center published an image of a mosque that it asserts is located in the village of Mahruzlu, however CHW determined that the building shown in the Karabakh Center's image is in fact located in the neighboring village of Mughanly. There appears to be confusion either regarding the naming of the village where the mosque is located, or regarding the mosque building per se. Notably, an encyclopedia of the toponyms of the Qubadli district notes that "Karbalai Mirali and Karbalai Samad from Mahruzlu village, after visiting Karbala, they build a mosque in the village of Mughanly.... It was used as a warehouse during Soviet rule. It was restored by the community in the 1970s" (Salmanov 2015, 190). This account confirms that the mosque was located in Mughanly rather than Mahruzlu.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the mosque's roof was removed between these dates. Between September 2002 and the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, some of the walls of the mosque were also destroyed (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center. The building can also be seen in a video of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan.

SARY ASHYG MAUSOLEUM

Site N.4726
39.47701400N/ 46.60953E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mausoleum of the Azerbaijani poet (ashyg), Sary Ashyg, is located in the village of Gulabird (Lachin district) and appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4726; RAHL 2001). In 1927, an archaeological expedition dated the tomb to the 17th century. During the late Soviet period, a museum was constructed at the site and opening ceremonies were held in 1989.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, bottom) shows that the mausoleum has been destroyed. Videos post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also confirm its destruction.

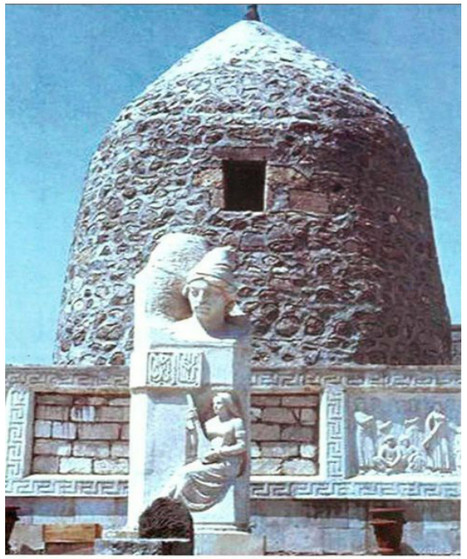
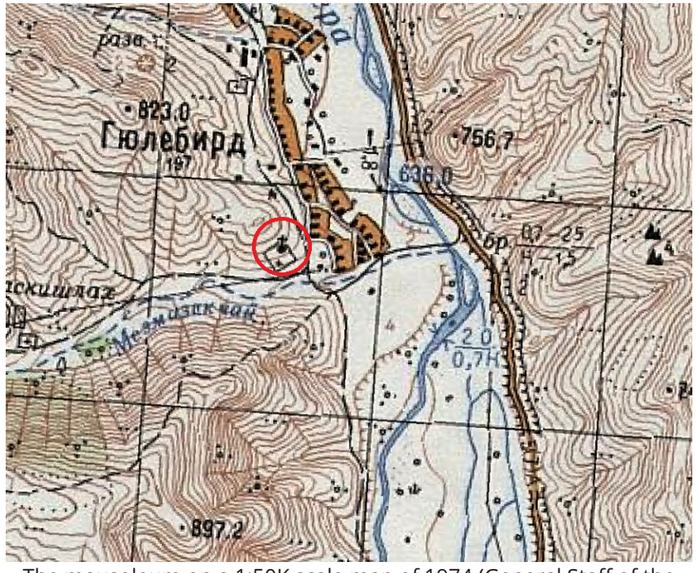


Image: Wikimedia Commons

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:50K scale topographic map of the Soviet Army General Staff.



The mausoleum on a 1:50K scale map of 1974 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-22-V, 1:50,000).

GARYGYSHLAG MOSQUE

Site N.4733
39.66946864N/ 46.38571292E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Garygyshlag (Lachin district), the Garygyshlag Mosque appears on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites (inventory No. 4733) as being built in 1718 (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the mosque did not change during that time as the roof was already missing in the late Soviet years.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

PICHANIS MOSQUE

Site N.4736
39.80469250N/46.4460353E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mosque is located in the Lachin district, in the village of Pichanis. It appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 4736) without a construction date (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in January 2006 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed, leaving it heavily damaged. From January 2006 until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, the mosque building remained in the same condition (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

MAUSOLEUM

Site N.5042
39.77119500N/ 46.755064E

Status: Unchanged

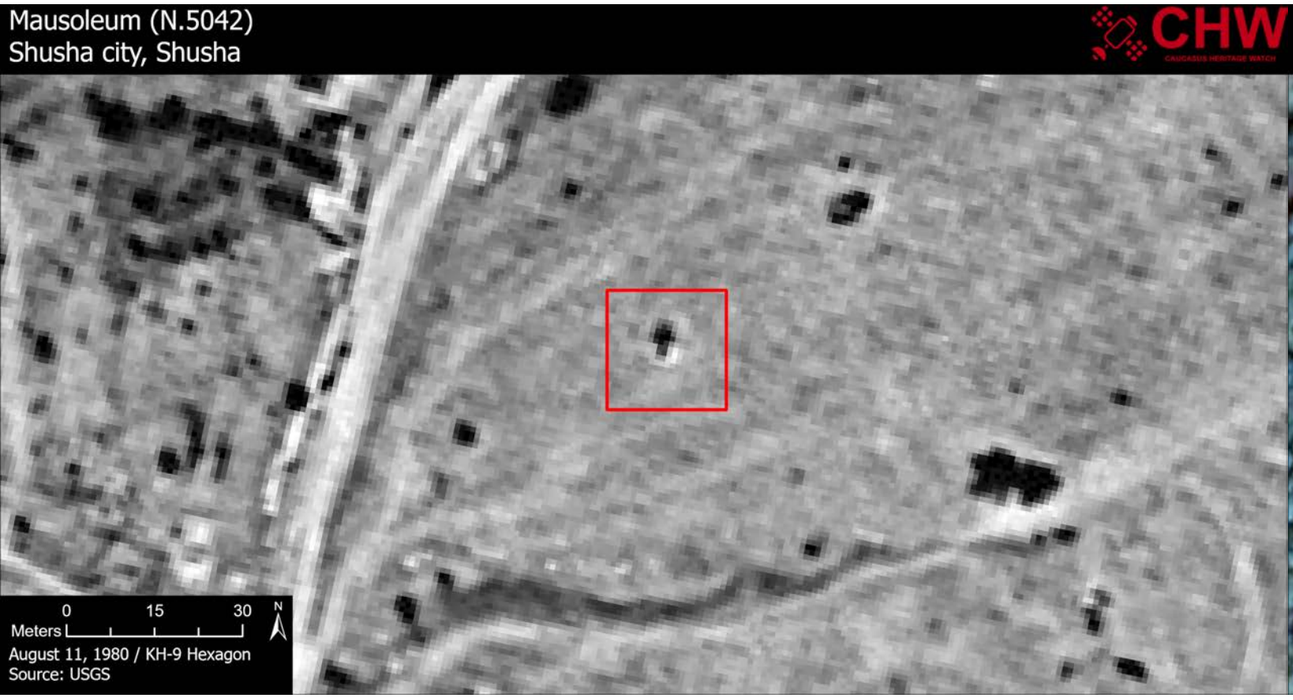
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, this mausoleum appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5042), but a construction date is not provided (RAHL 2001). According to the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan, it dates to the 19th century.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) appears to shows that the general structural condition of the mausoleum has not changed. While the resolution of the Hexagon image is poor, it is sufficient to determine that the roof had already been removed and that the monument had suffered damage to its northern wall by 1980. The mausoleum remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum based on images (a, b, c) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War and disseminated by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan. The mausoleum is also marked on a 1:25K scale Soviet map from 1952 (right).



MALIBEYLI MOSQUE

Site N.5056
39.83199200N/46.792368E

Image: Monument Watch

Status: Indeterminate

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Malibeyli, in the Shusha district, this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5056) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, bottom) shows that the modern roofing of the mosque was removed, exposing the traditional dome. Overall, the monument is in good structural condition, however there is some damage to the roof and above the windows on the west side of the building. It is not clear whether these impacts took place before the Soviet-era roof was added or after it was removed. Since the timing of the impacts cannot be defined with current evidence, CHW cannot determine whether the mosque is unchanged since the First Nagorno-Karabakh War or if it has sustained minor damage.

From September 2002 until May 2022, the mosque building remained in the same condition (see p. 228). This monument remains in territory controlled by Armenian authorities of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque through visual identification on modern historical satellite imagery and later confirmed its location via images provided by Monument Watch.

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Monument Watch

CHUKHUR MAHALLA MOSQUE

Site N.5068
39.76113200N/ 46.757694E

Status: Major damage

Image: Wikimedia Commons

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Chukhur Mahalla Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5068) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed. From September 2002 until July 2013, the mosque remained in this condition. But between July 2013 (see storymap) and August 2016 (right, bottom), the eastern wall of the mosque was also damaged. The mosque remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided by an academic publication on the architecture of Shusha (Avalov 1977, 70).

HAJI ABBAS MOSQUE

Site N.5073
39.7605100N/ 46.752009E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Haji Abbas Mosque (and adjacent caravansarai complex) is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No 5073) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) and satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that during this period, the Soviet-era roofing was removed but the traditional domed roof remained undisturbed. At some point between February 2004 and July 2013, the mosque and the adjacent caravansarai complex (which functioned as a market in the Soviet years) were renovated and remained in good condition (right, bottom). A video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War also attests that the mosque structure remains well-preserved.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using the address provided in the official list (1 Vazirov Street), as well as old and modern photographs of the building (a, b, c).

MARDINLI MOSQUE

Site N.5077
39.76246858N/ 46.75295225E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Located in the city of Shusha, the Mardinli Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5077) as an architectural monument of the 19th century (RAHL 2001). During the Soviet period, the mosque building functioned as a movie theater (Vagif Cinema).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed during this period. The mosque remained in this condition until it was razed sometime between August 6, 2016, (see Storymap) and July 7, 2018 (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in a book on the architecture of Shusha city (Avalov 1977, 71).

HAJI YUSIFLI MOSQUE

Site N.5089
39.76231100N/ 46.755082E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Haji Yusifli Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5089) as an architectural monument of the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Image: Wikimapia

CHW compared Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) to determine that the roof of the mosque as well as its eastern wall were removed during this period. Satellite imagery captured on July 18, 2013 (see Storymap) shows that by this date construction was already underway on a new structure at the site of the former mosque. Judging by the new building's dimensions, it appears that the original mosque was not renovated but rather was torn down during this construction episode. The new building was completed at some point prior to August 6, 2016 (right, bottom). The destruction of the mosque is also confirmed by a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War; the new building does not resemble the original mosque (above).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in a book on the architecture of Shusha (Avalov 1977, 70).

JULFALAR MOSQUE

Site N.5092
39.75832580N/ 46.7544308E

Status: Destroyed

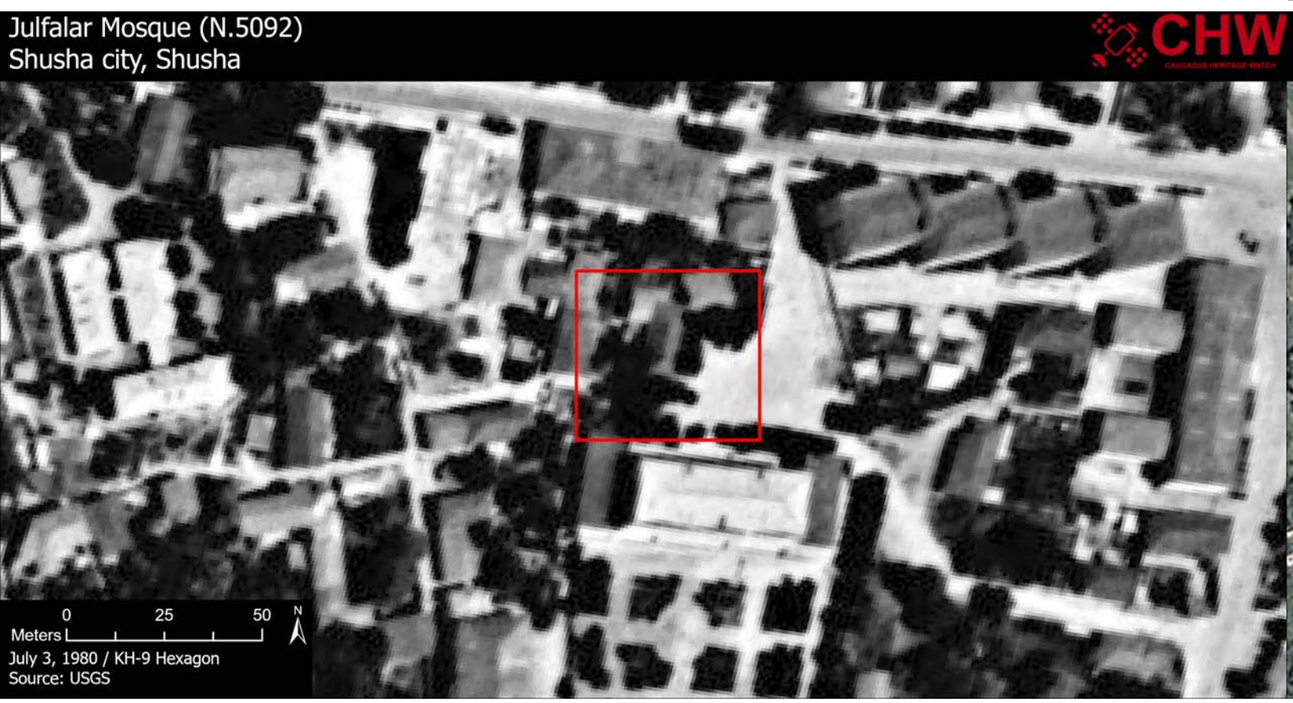
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Julafar Mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 5092) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the mosque building remained intact during this time period. But satellite imagery captured on July 18, 2013 (right, bottom) shows that by this date, construction of a new building was already well underway and the mosque structure had been destroyed.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a Soviet-era image.



CHOL GALA MOSQUE

Site N.5103
39.76421500N/46.753767E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Chol Gala Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5103) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, bottom) shows that during this period the mosque sustained minor damage. After the modern roof was removed and the traditional domed roof exposed, the northern end of the building was damaged. Judging by a comparison of Soviet-era photographs (a, b) and an image captured in September 2021 (see above), it is clear that, at the very least, the eastern facade of the building has been impacted. The mosque remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (see Storymap).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in an academic publication on the architecture of Shusha (Avalov 1977, 70).

KHOJA MARJANLI MOSQUE

Site N.5137
39.76020936N/ 46.751417E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Khoja Marjanli Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5137) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

CHW compared Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) to determine that the roof had been removed during this period. The mosque remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom). An mage post-dating the 2020 war (see Storymap) confirms that the upper courses of the mosque's masonry walls were also destroyed.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in an academic publication on the architecture of Shusha (Avalov 1977, 71).

KOCHARLI MOSQUE

Site N.5145
39.76557149N/ 46.74631592E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

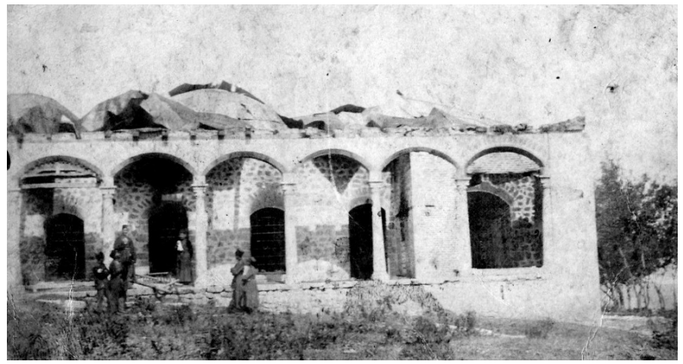


Image: Wikimedia Commons

Located in the city of Shusha, the Kocharli Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5145) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed during this period. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition for many years. At some point between November 19, 2018 (see Storymap) and June 5, 2019 (right, bottom) the mosque was razed.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in the official list, together with former Soviet-era street maps and several images (a, b, c) of the mosque.

SEYIDLI MOSQUE

Site N.5151
39.75767100N/ 46.756216E

Status: Unchanged

Image: Wikimedia Commons

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

One of the many mosques of Shusha, the Seyidli Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5151) as an architectural monument dating to the 18th century (RAHL 2001).

CHW compared Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) to determine that the overall condition of the mosque did not change during this period. The mosque remained in this well-preserved condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom). Images post-dating the war confirm this assessment (see above).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in an academic publication on the architecture of Shusha (Avalov 1970, 70).

MAMAY MOSQUE

Site N.5166
39.76192400N/ 46.7500250E

Status: Unchanged

Image: Wikimedia Commons Date: Feb. 2019

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the city of Shusha, the Mamay Mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No 5166) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the overall structural condition of the mosque remained unchanged. The mosque was still well-preserved through the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom). Images pre-and post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm CHW's assessment (see above).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on locational information provided in an academic publication on the architecture of Shusha (Avalov 1970, 71).

ZANGILAN MOSQUE

Site N.5287
39.06867676N/ 46.69571664E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Zangilan (Zangilan district), this mosque is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 5287) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) and imagery captured in February 2004 (right, top) shows that the mosque's roof had been removed during this period. The mosque remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video and images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g) post-dating the 2020 war.

MALATKESHIN MOSQUE

Site N.5288
39.10222300N/ 46.648122E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Malatkeshin (Zangilan district), the Malatkeshin Mosque is on list of the heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5288) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the mosque's roof was removed during this period. The mosque remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video and images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i) post-dating the 2020 war.

GIRAG MUSHLAN MOSQUE

Site N.5289
39.06591232N/ 46.67935482E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Girag Mushlan, in the Zangilan district, this mosque appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5289) as an architectural monument dating to the 19th century (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (right, top) shows that the mosque's roof was removed during this period. The mosque building remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h) disseminated by the Karabakh Center. The Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan presents another building as the mosque of this village, located at 39.066787N, 46.679955E. But CHW concludes based on its architectural characteristics that the structure identified as the mosque by the Karabakh Center is correct.

CEMETERY

Site N.5750
40.15669600N /46.841741E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Papravand, in the Aghdam district, this cemetery appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5750) as an archeological monument dating to the medieval era (RAHL 2001).

CHW's assessment of the condition of this cemetery is based on our review of the full corpus of satellite images available on GoogleEarth (site coordinates above). It is thus difficult to convey the basis for our assessment with a simple comparison of two images. Close scrutiny of the satellite images shows that up until September 2011 (right, top), tombstones appear to be standing upright, judging by the shadows they cast. By April 2019 and subsequently (right, bottom), these shadows are no longer visible. Instead, the territory of the cemetery shows white linear features, as though the tombstones have been knocked down and the graves disturbed. This assessment is confirmed by recent images of the cemetery. Moreover, at least one mausoleum (N.4044) was destroyed, and another structure to its southeast, which resembles a mausoleum, was also destroyed.

GEOLOCATION

CHW was able to geolocate the cemetery using a topographic map from 1989 and modern satellite images (right, bottom).

The cemetery on a 1:50K scale map from 1989 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, K-38-142-G, 1:50,000)

CEMETERY

Site N.5751
40.07613400N /46.85965E

Status: Minor damage

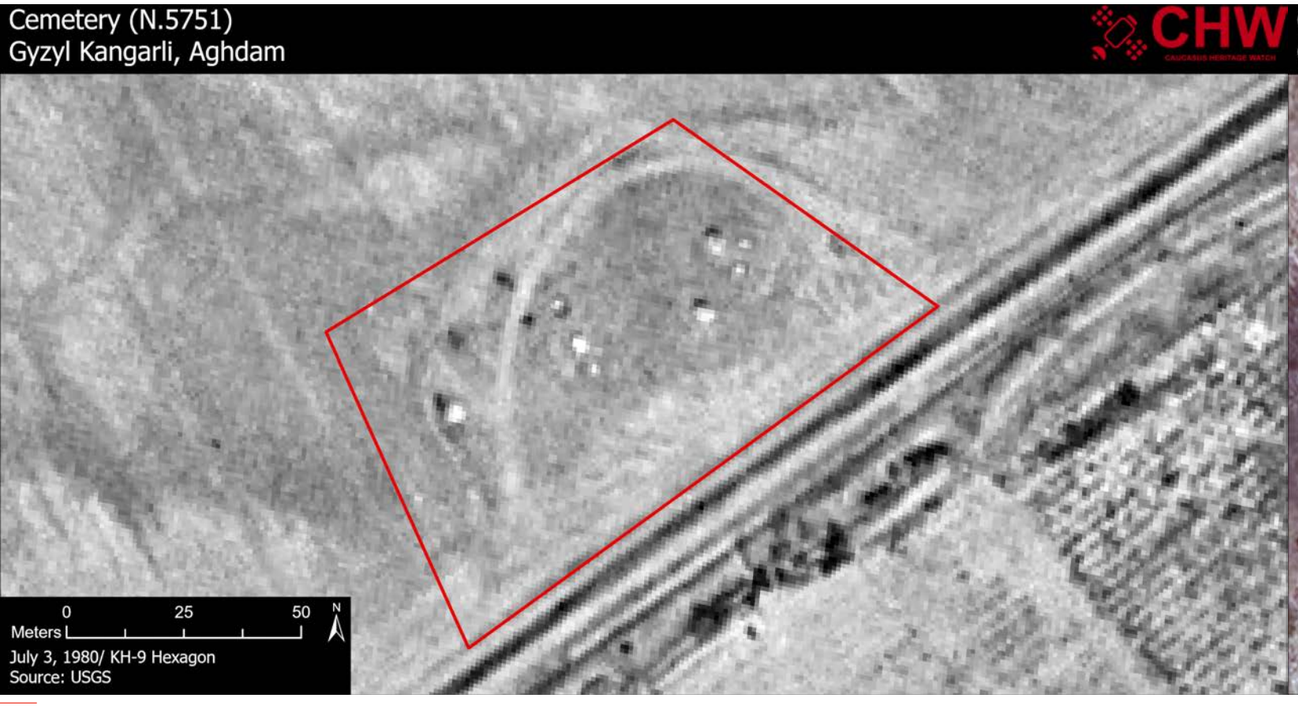
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located near the village of Gyzyl Kangarli (Aghdam district), this cemetery is listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites (inventory No. 5751) as an archaeological monument dating to the medieval era (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, top) shows that adjacent farmland had encroached on the western limit of the cemetery and a mausoleum in the area (NA.26, assessed separately in this analysis) had been destroyed. A second mausoleum to the east (NA.23, also assessed independently) remained intact. CHW assesses the cemetery as having sustained minor damage. Except for the encroachment in the west, the territory of the cemetery appears to have remained intact. After 2004, no additional changes are visible (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW was able to geolocate the cemetery using a topographic map (see Storymap) and obtained visual confirmation from a KH-9 Hexagon image from 1980 (below).



CEMETERY

Site N.5791
39.33798410N /47.1902036E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the Karkhulu village, in the Jabrayil district, this cemetery appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5791) as an archaeological monument dating to the 17-18th centuries (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in April 2010 (right, top) shows minor damage to the cemetery caused by the excavation of what appears to be a backhoe trench near the center of the territory. Between March 2016 (see Storymap) and September 2018 (right, bottom), excavations in the cemetery appear to have expanded significantly, causing major damage to the site across three lateral cuts, each approximately 50m long and 4-5m wide.

GEOLOCATION

CHW was able to geolocate the cemetery using a topographic map from 1957 (right). We confirmed its location using KH-9 Hexagon imagery from 1980 (below) and modern satellite sources.

CEMETERY

Site N.5795
39.44226500N /46.862563E

Status: Indeterminate

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the Shykhlar village, in the Jabrayil district, this cemetery appears on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5795) as a medieval cemetery (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that no major changes took place in the territory of the cemetery. There is no evidence for earth moving, construction, or other disturbance. However, given the resolution of the satellite imagery and the absence of photographic evidence, it is not possible to assess the condition of individual tombstones. This remained the case until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW located the cemetery based on a book (Nemet 2010, 37-38), which discusses the 14th-century mausoleum in this location in great detail and mentions 14th century tombstones in the cemetery around the mausoleum.

ASHYG CEMETERY

Site N.5923
39.47655300N /46.608763E

Status: Indeterminate

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Mezmazik, in the Lachin district, this cemetery is on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan (inventory No. 5923) as a medieval archaeological monument (RAHL 2001).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) shows that no substantial change took place in the territory of the cemetery. But the resolution of the available modern satellite coverage and the lack of comprehensive photographic and video evidence does not allow CHW to assess the condition of tombstones. No major changes took place in the area of the cemetery after 2005 (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW was able to geolocate the cemetery using a topographic map from 1974, and obtained visual confirmation using KH-9 Hexagon images of 1980 as well as modern satellite sources. The cemetery can also be seen in a video post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War. Sary Ashyg Mausoleum (N.4726), which was destroyed at some point prior to 2005, was located on the eastern edge of the cemetery.

MOSQUE

Site NA.01
39.08155600N/ 46.658194E

Status: Major damage

Image: Wikimedia Commons

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mosque, located in the city of Zangilan, is not on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan. According to some sources, it is called the Imam Huseyn Mosque and dates to the 17th -18th centuries.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dating July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed, causing major damage to the structure. The mosque remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on media coverage (a, b).

RZAQULU BEY MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.02
39.575352N/ 47.0614160E

Status: Destroyed

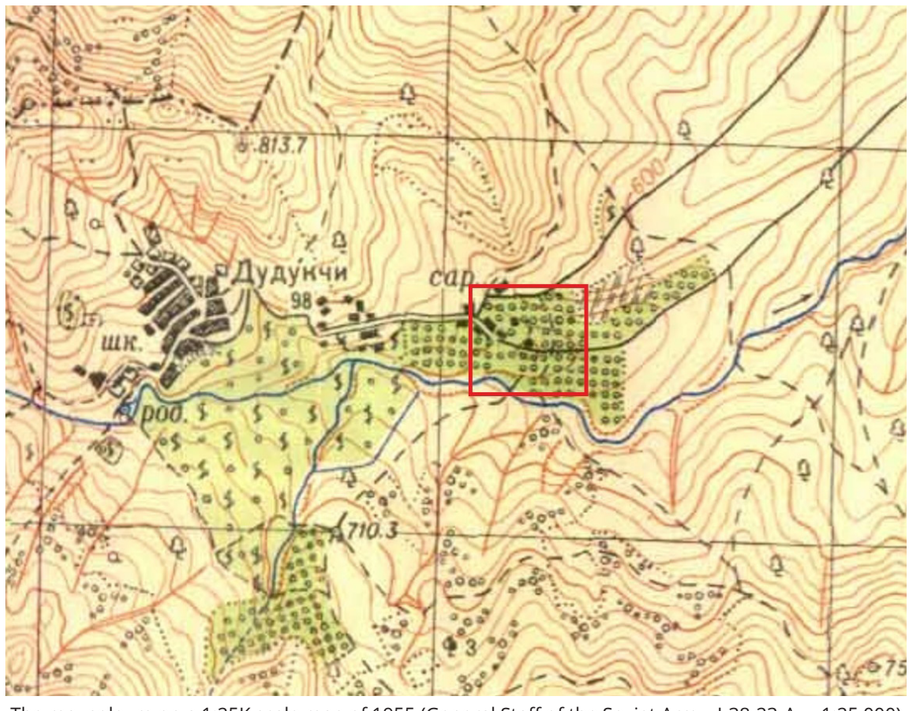
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Dudukchu (Khojavend district), the Rzaqulu Bey Mausoleum is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's list of heritage sites. CHW learned of the mausoleum from several other sources (Tapdiqoghlu 2009, 392; KDEO nd; Karabakh Center nd).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, bottom) shows that the mausoleum was destroyed during this period. Images (a, b, c, d) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm the destruction of the mausoleum.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on the 1:25K scale topographic map of 1955.



The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map of 1955 (General Staff of the Soviet Army, J-38-23-A-v, 1:25,000)

JIJIMLI MOSQUE

Site NA.03
39.51652086N/ 46.51694415E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Jijimli Mosque, located in a village of the same name, is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites. According to the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the mosque is called a rectangular mosque-madrasa and dates to 1790-1791.

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) and satellite imagery captured in June 2004 (right, top) shows that the overall structural condition of the mosque remained unchanged. The well-preserved condition of the building is also confirmed by videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War. The mosque remained in this well-preserved condition through the 2020 war (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using two videos (a, b) post-dating the 2020 war.

MIR MEHDI KHAZANI MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.04
39.59396800N/ 46.967267E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Tugh (Khojavend district), Mir Mehdi Khazani Mausoleum is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites. CHW identified the mausoleum based on information provided by the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1972 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2020 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the mausoleum has remained unchanged. Images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War confirm this assessment.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

SHAFIBEYLI MOSQUE

Site NA.05
39.06557700N/ 46.613965E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Shafibeyli Mosque takes its name from the village in which it is located in the Zangilan district. While the mosque is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites, CHW identified the site based on information from the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed, causing major damage to the building. The mosque remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

BABAYLI MOSQUE

Site NA.06
39.16359400N/ 46.796587E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Babayli Mosque is not included on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan. CHW identified it based on information from the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (right, top) shows that the mosque sustained major damage when its roof was removed. The mosque remained in the same condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated this mosque based on an image from Karabakh Center. The mosque is also mentioned in a video (at 14:10) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

GENLIK MOSQUE

Site NA.07
39.10845400N/ 46.634045E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Genlik Mosque, located in a village of the same name, is not included on Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW learned of the site from the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the roof of the building was removed, causing major damage to the structure. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e, f) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

UDGUN MOSQUE

Site NA.08
39.05693900N/ 46.69235E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Ugdun (Zangilan district), the Ugdun Mosque is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW identified the mosque based on information provided by the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque building was removed, causing major damage to the structure. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

ABDAL MOSQUE

Site NA.09
39.86593500N/ 46.924238E

Status: Minor damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Abdal Mosque, located in a village of the same name (Aghdam district), is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites. CHW included the mosque in its dataset based on information provided by the Karabakh Center. According to another source, the mosque dates to 1878-1879 (RAA 2010, 26).

Image: RAA 2010, 26.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in July 2007 (right, top) shows that the modern roofing of the mosque was removed, exposing its traditional domed roof. Between 2014 and 2019, holes appeared (or became larger) on the domed roofing (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

YUSIFJANLY MOSQUE

Site NA.10
39.97321300N/ 47.049761E

Status: Major damage

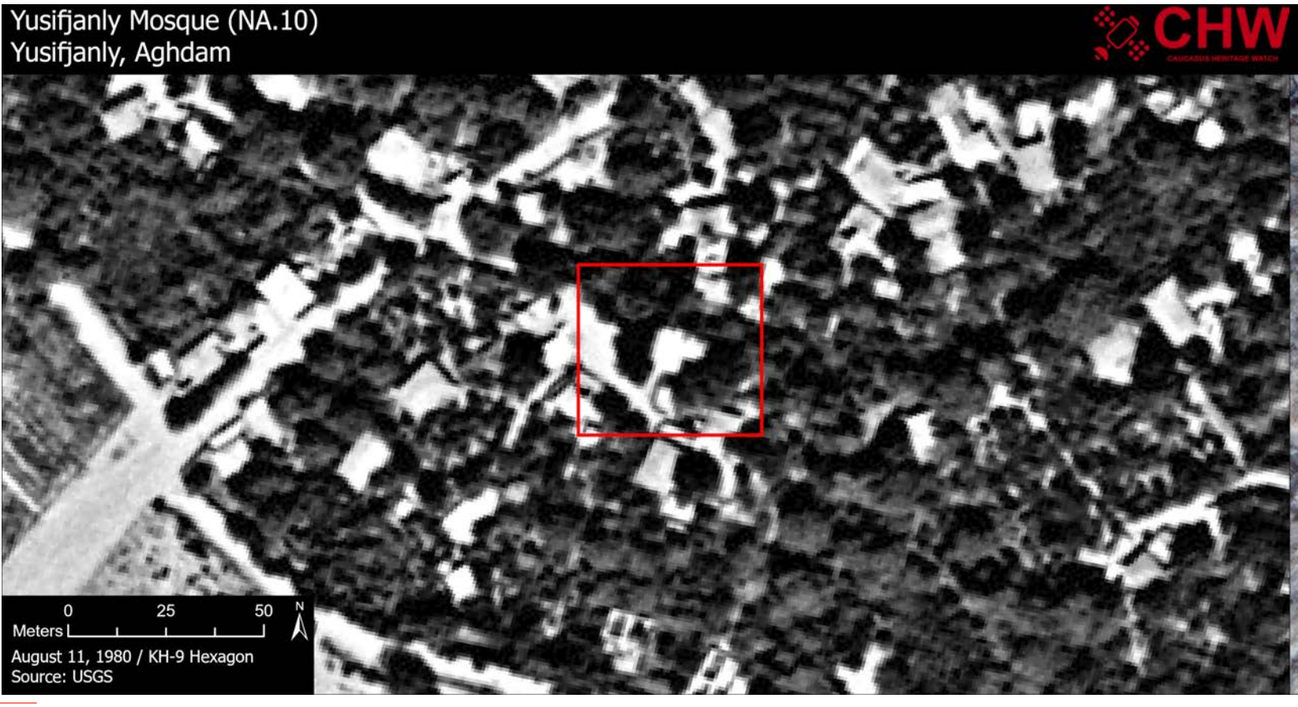
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Yusifjanly (Aghdam district), the Yusifjanly Mosque is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW identified the mosque based on information from the Karabakh Center.

CHW compared KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) to determine that the structure sustained major damage when its roof was removed. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center.



MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.11
40.07263512N/ 46.96229381E

Status: Unchanged

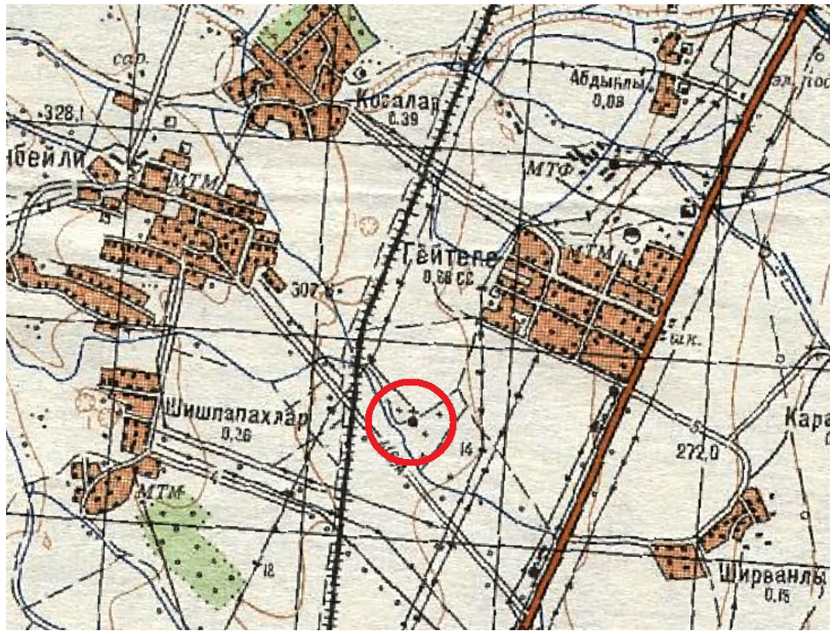
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mausoleum, located in the Kosalar village of Aghdam district, is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. CHW included the mausoleum in its dataset based on information from the Karabakh Center website.

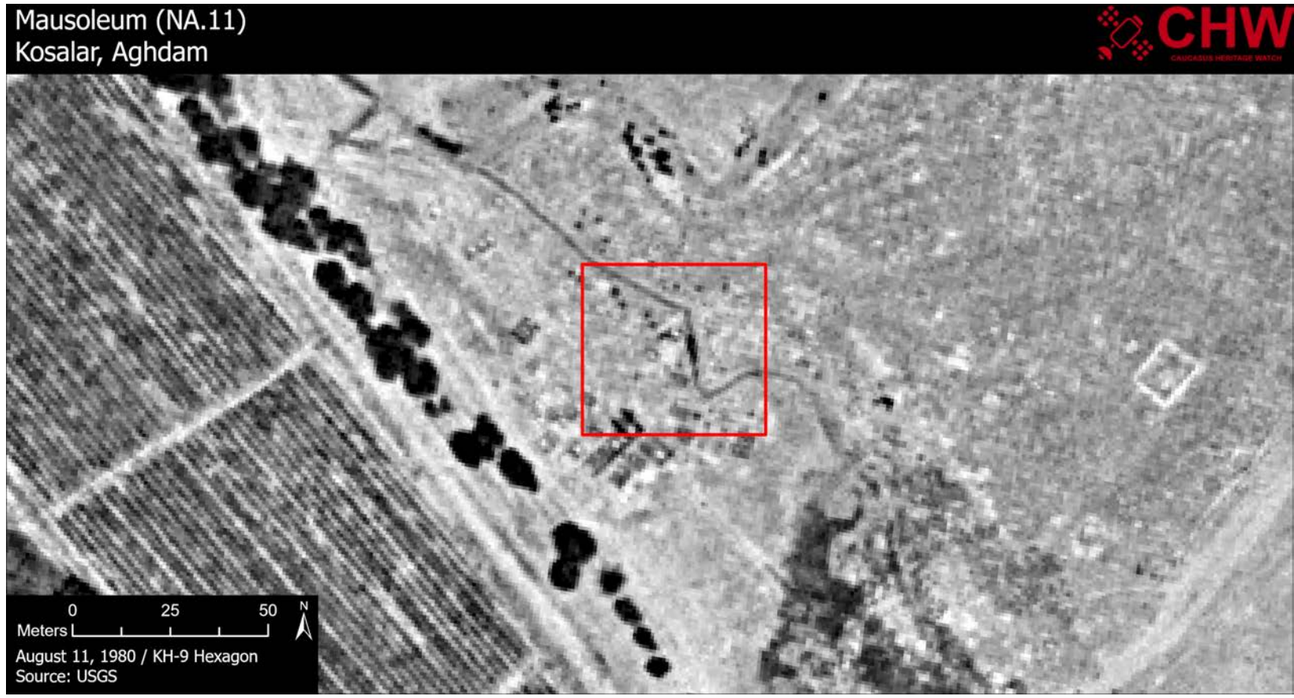
Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in June 2019 (right, bottom) shows that the mausoleum has remained well-preserved.

GEOLOCATION

The mausoleum is marked on a 1:50K scale topographic map of 1989.



The mausoleum on a 1:25K scale map of 1989
(General Staff of the Soviet Army, K-38-142-G, 1:50,000)



GULABLY MOSQUE

Site NA.12
39.86430600N/ 46.93658E

Status: Major damage

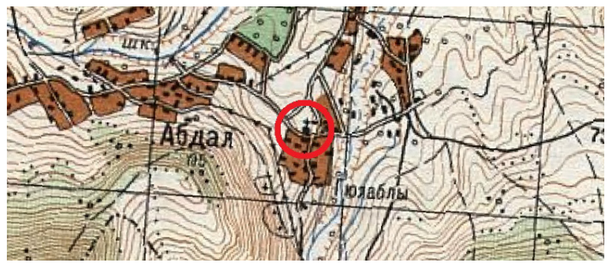
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Gulably Mosque, located in a village of the same name (Aghdam district), does not appear on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official heritage list. CHW included it in our analysis based on information from the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in July 2007 (right, top) shows that the roofing and dome were destroyed. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h) disseminated by the Karabakh Center. The mosque is also marked on a 1:50K scale topographic map from 1981 (at right).



SHIKHBABALY MOSQUE

Site NA.13
39.95809892N/ 46.93590627E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Shikhbabaly Mosque, located in a village of the same name, is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. CHW included the mosque in its analysis based on information from the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1977 (below) with satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed. The mosque remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

MERZILI MOSQUE

Site NA.14
39.93560287N/ 47.07321335E

Status: Major damage

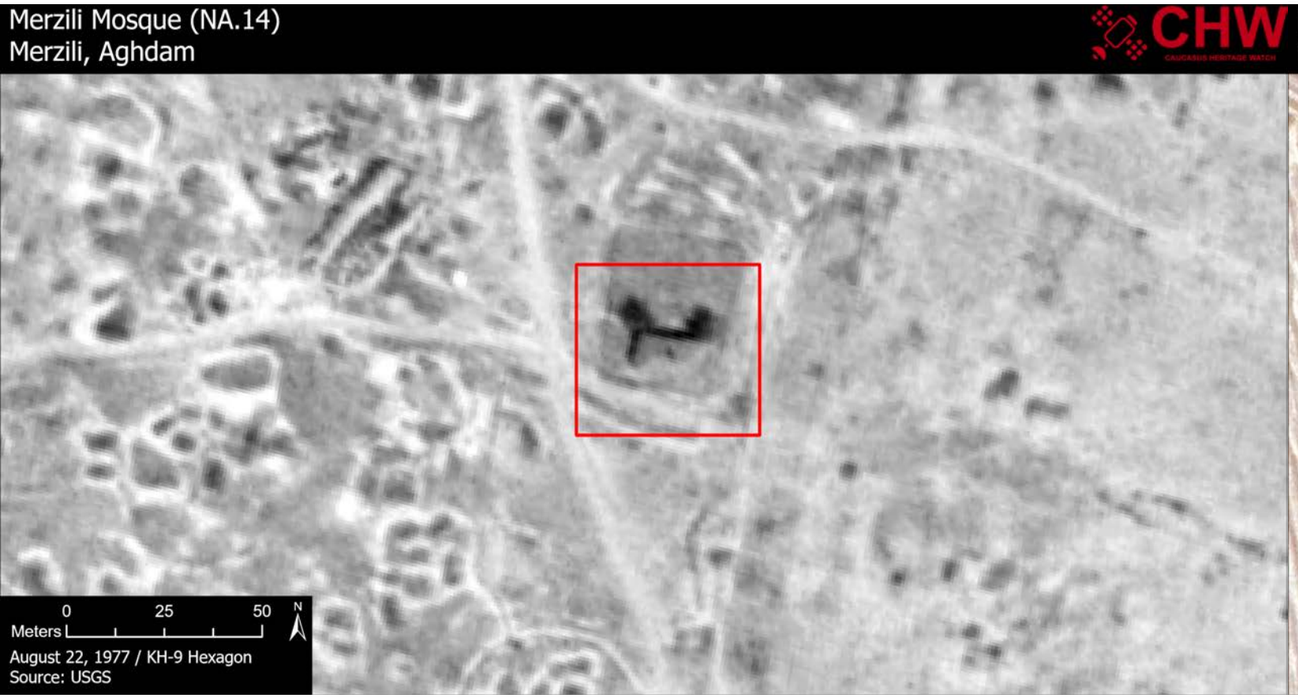
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Merzili, in the Aghdam district, the Merzili Mosque is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites, but the Karabakh Center provides some information about the structure.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1977 (below) with satellite imagery captured in March 2005 (right, top) shows that roof of the mosque was removed. The mosque remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using an image disseminated by the Karabakh Center. The mosque is also marked on a 1:50k scale topographic map of 1973 (at right).



KHANAZUR MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.15
38.94643270N/ 46.5710647E

Status: Major damage

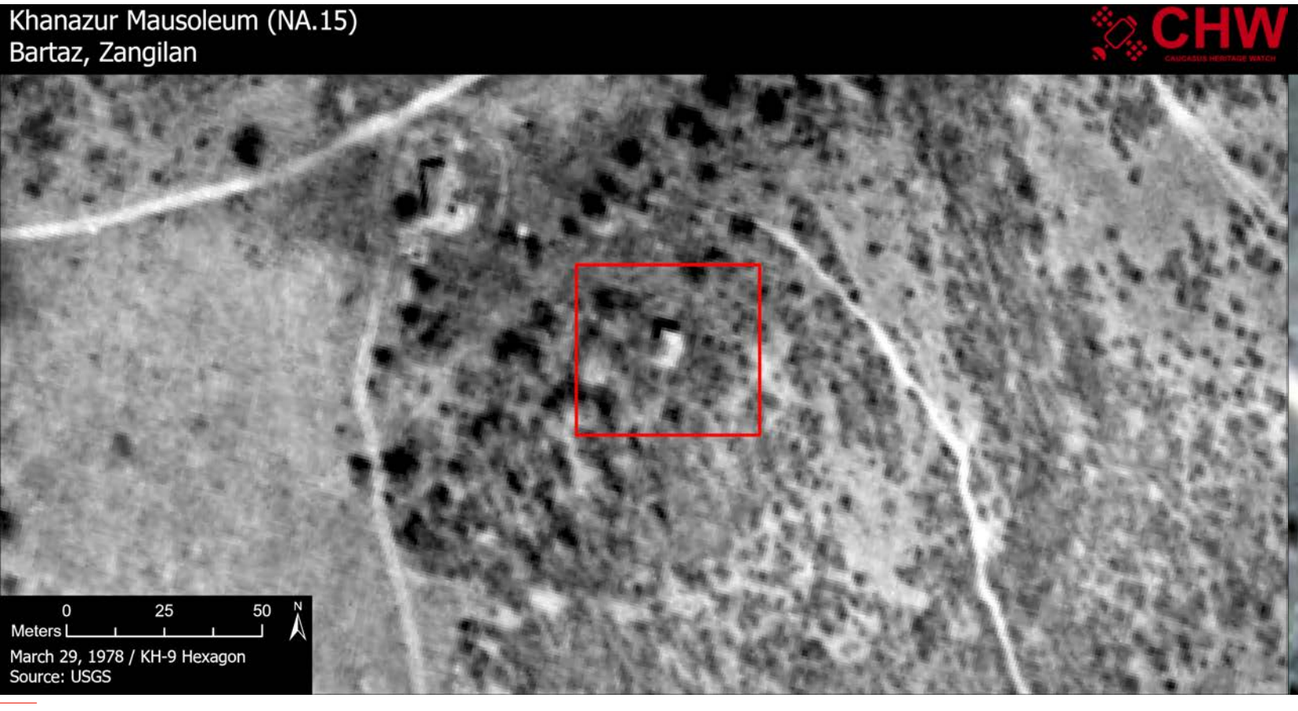
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located near Bartaz village, in the Zangilan district, the Khanazur Mausoleum is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's registry of heritage sites. CHW included this site in its analysis based on information from the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated March 1978 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mausoleum was torn down, causing damage to the structure. The mausoleum remained in this damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using images (a, b, c, d, e, f) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.



RAZDARA MOSQUE

Site NA.16
39.06746300N/ 46.563789E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Razdara Mosque, located in the village of Razdara (Zangilan district) is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. CHW included this mosque in its analysis based on information from the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Karabakh Center.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in October 2009 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was torn down, causing major damage to the structure. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on images (a, b, c, d, e, f, g) disseminated by the Karabakh Center.

BASHLIBEL MOSQUE

Site NA.17
39.97831900N/ 46.128156E

Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Bashlibel Mosque, located in the village of Bashlibel (Kalbajar district), is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. CHW included this mosque in its analysis based on information from the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 1977 (below) with satellite imagery captured in June 2010 (right, top) shows that the roof of the mosque was removed, causing major damage to the structure. The mosque remained in this heavily damaged condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque based on a video (at 02:01) post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

CEMETERY

Site NA.18
39.76927500N/ 46.754442E

Status: Indeterminate

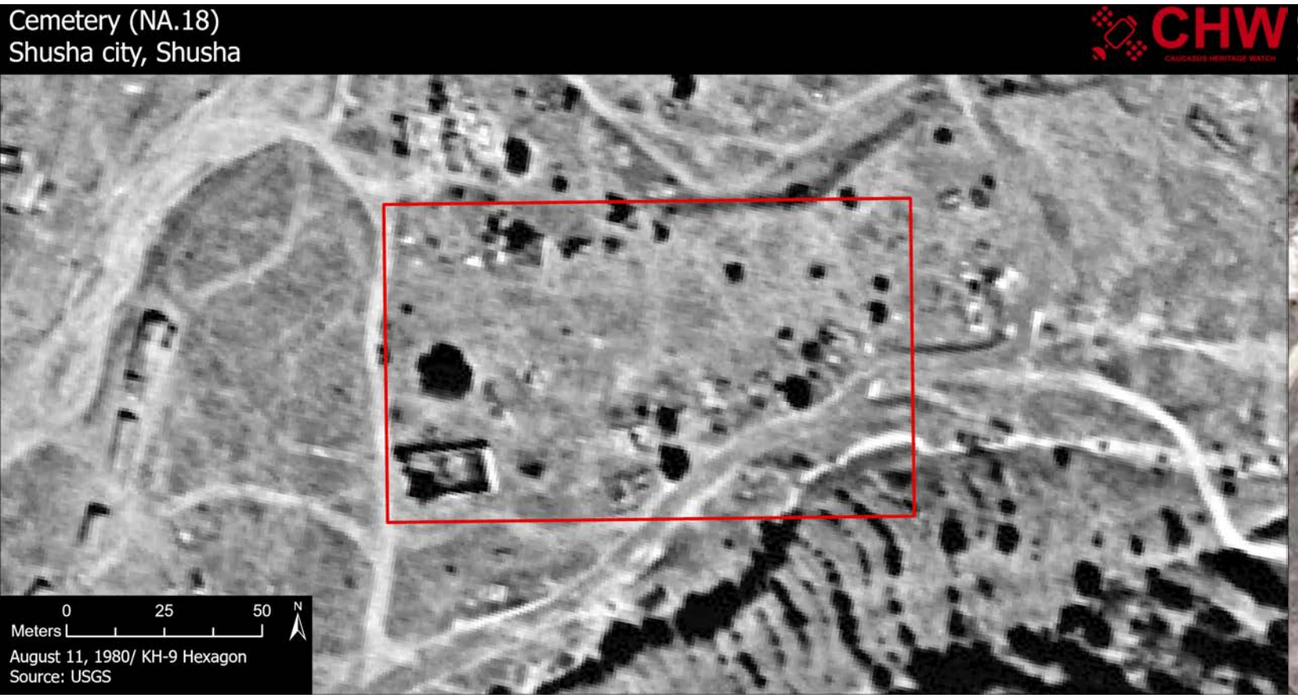
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in Shusha city, this cemetery is not included on the list of the heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan, but it appears on the list of heritage sites of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (inventory No. 107) as a Persian cemetery/Shah Qajar's Cemetery dating to the 18th-19th centuries.

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that no major change took place in the area of the cemetery during this period. There are no signs of earth moving, construction activity, or other disturbance in the area. However, the resolution of the available satellite coverage and lack of photographic and video evidence from the ground make it impossible to fully assess the condition of individual tombstones in the cemetery. Between 2002 and the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, the territory of the cemetery appears to have remained intact (right, bottom), but a full assessment of the tombstones is not possible without photographic evidence.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the cemetery based on locational information provided in the list of heritage sites of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.



CEMETERY

Site NA.19
39.76780532N/ 46.75974989E

Status: Indeterminate

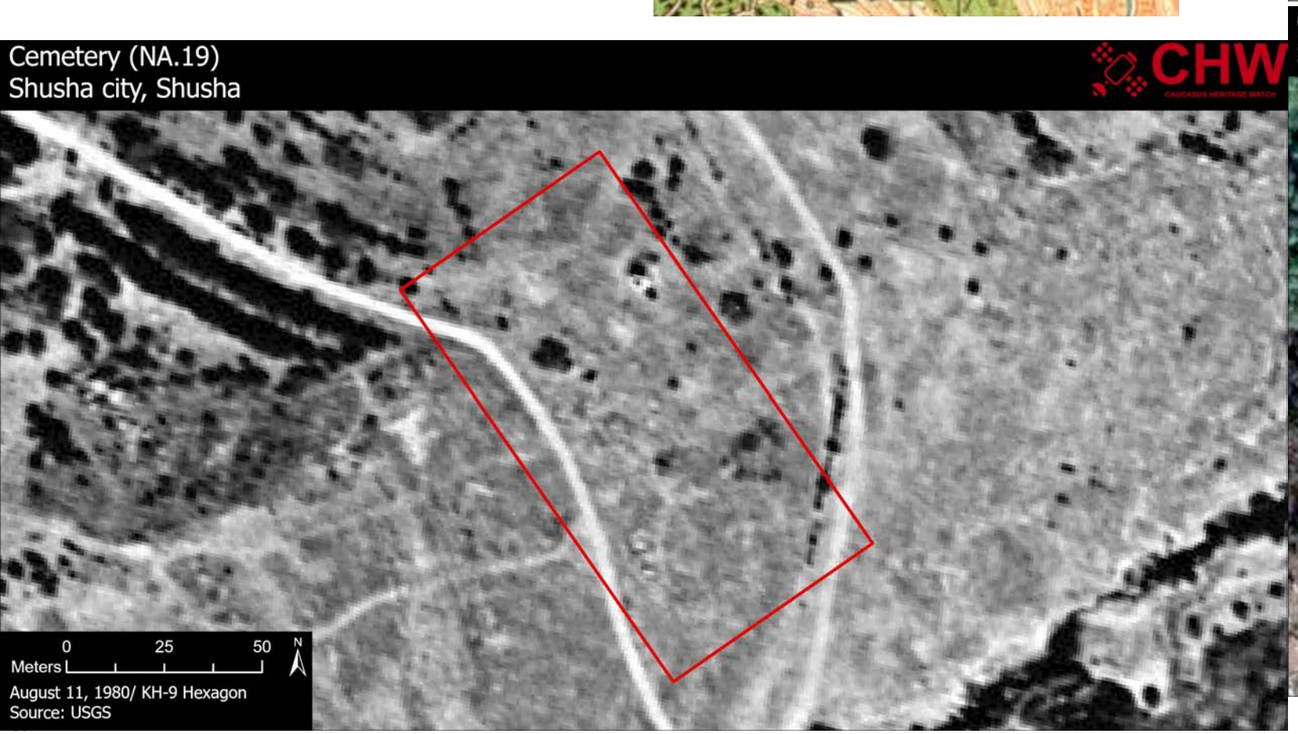
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in Shusha city, this cemetery is not included on the list of heritage sites of the Republic of Azerbaijan, but it appears on the list of heritage sites of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (inventory No. 22 7.2) as a 19th-century Islamic cemetery.

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that no major changes took place in the area of the cemetery. There are no signs of earth moving or construction activity in the area. But the resolution of the available satellite coverage and the lack of photographic and video evidence from the location make it impossible to fully assess the condition of individual tombstones. The situation remains the same until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the cemetery based on locational information provided on the list of heritage sites of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The cemetery along with a mausoleum is marked on a 1:25K scale map of 1983 (right).



MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.20
39.77412200N/ 46.7536410E

Status: Unchanged

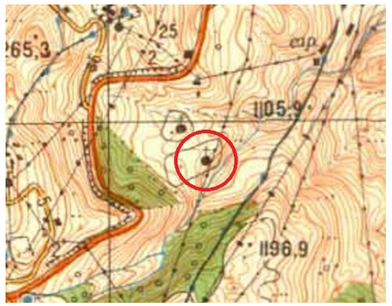
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

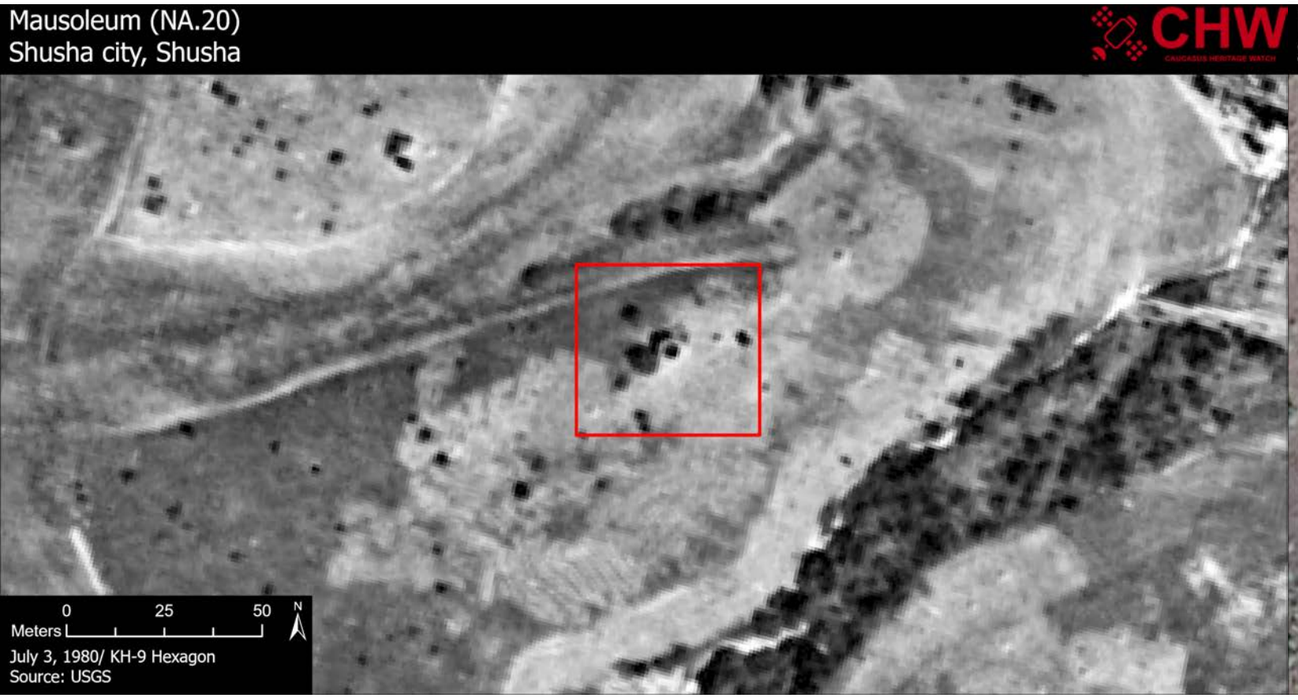
Located in the city of Shusha, this mausoleum is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW identified the mausoleum on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1983 (see Geolocation).

Comparison of the Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the condition of the mausoleum has not changed. The mausoleum remained in this same condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW founded and geolocated the mausoleum using a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1983 (right).





MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.21
39.77450743N/ 46.752844E

Status: Unchanged

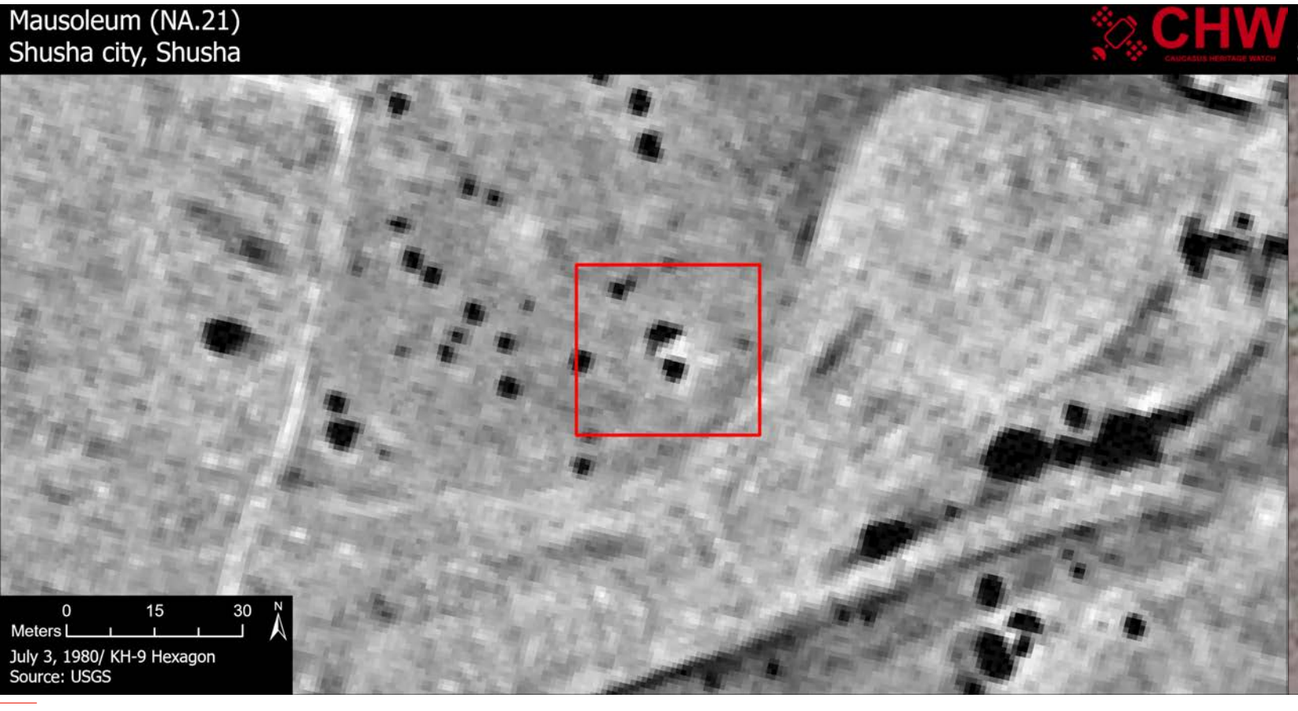
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in Shusha, this mausoleum is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. CHW identified the mausoleum on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1983 (see Geolocation).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged. The mausoleum remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1983 (at right).



MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.22
39.76819803N /46.75969515E

Status: Unchanged

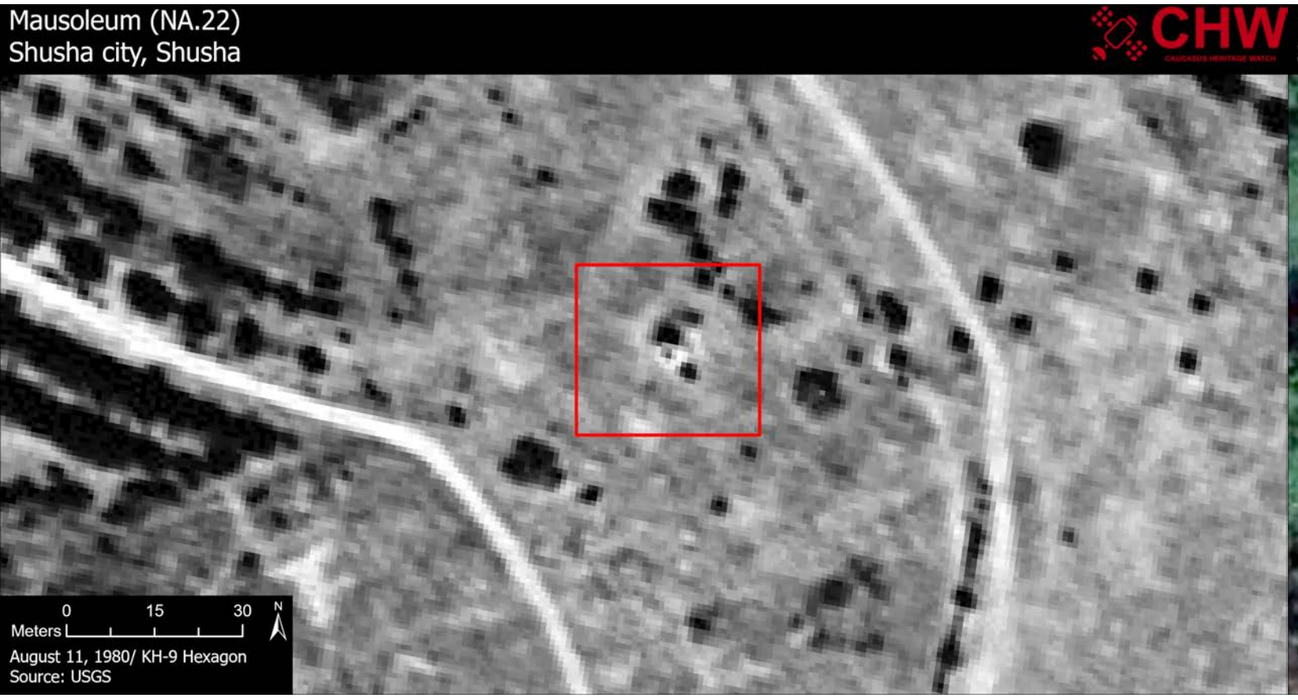
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in a Muslim cemetery in Shusha, this mausoleum does not appear on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW identified the mausoleum on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1983 (see Geolocation).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in September 2002 (right, top) shows that the condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged. The mausoleum remained in this condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1983 (at right).



MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.23
40.07613100N /46.859685E

Status: Unchanged

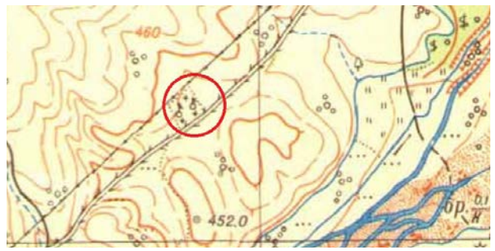
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

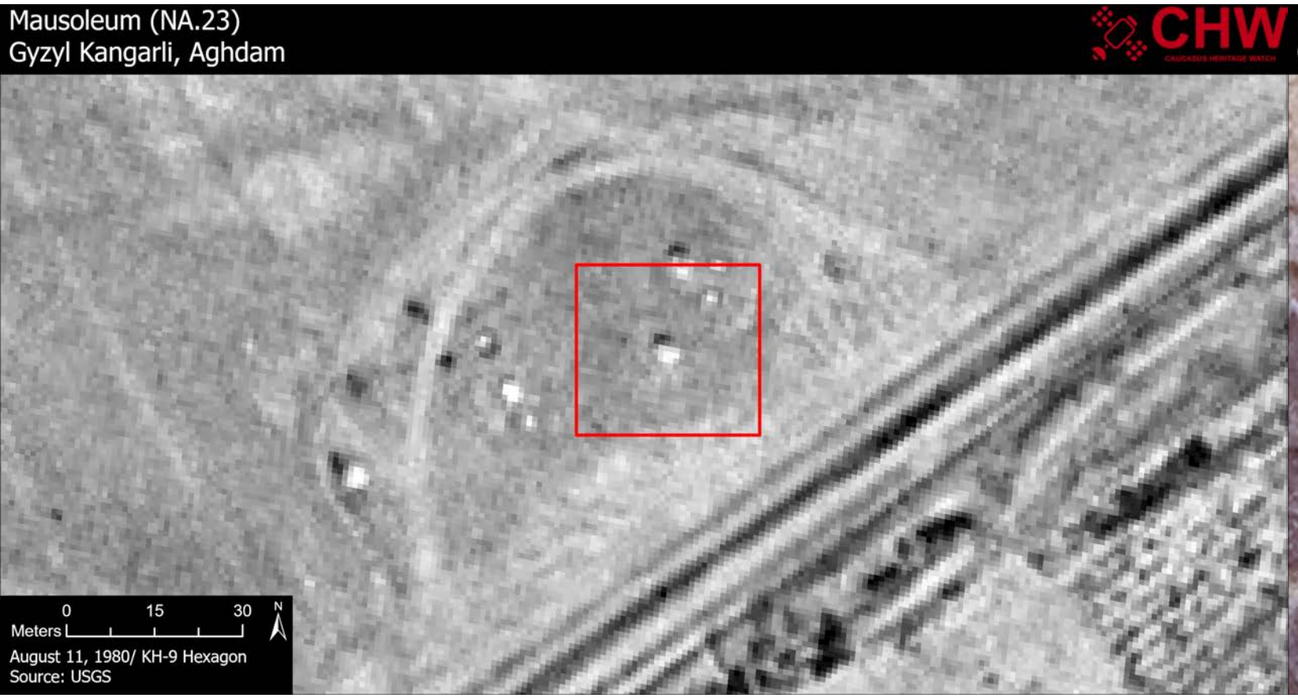
Located in Gyzyl Kangarli, in Aghdam district, this mausoleum is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW located the mausoleum on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1975 (see Geolocation).

Comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (below) with satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, top) shows that the condition of the mausoleum remained unchanged. The mausoleum remained in the same condition until the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (right, bottom).

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1975 (at right).





IMARAT CEMETERY

Site NA.25
39.99290238N/ 46.93835181E

Image: Wikimedia Commons

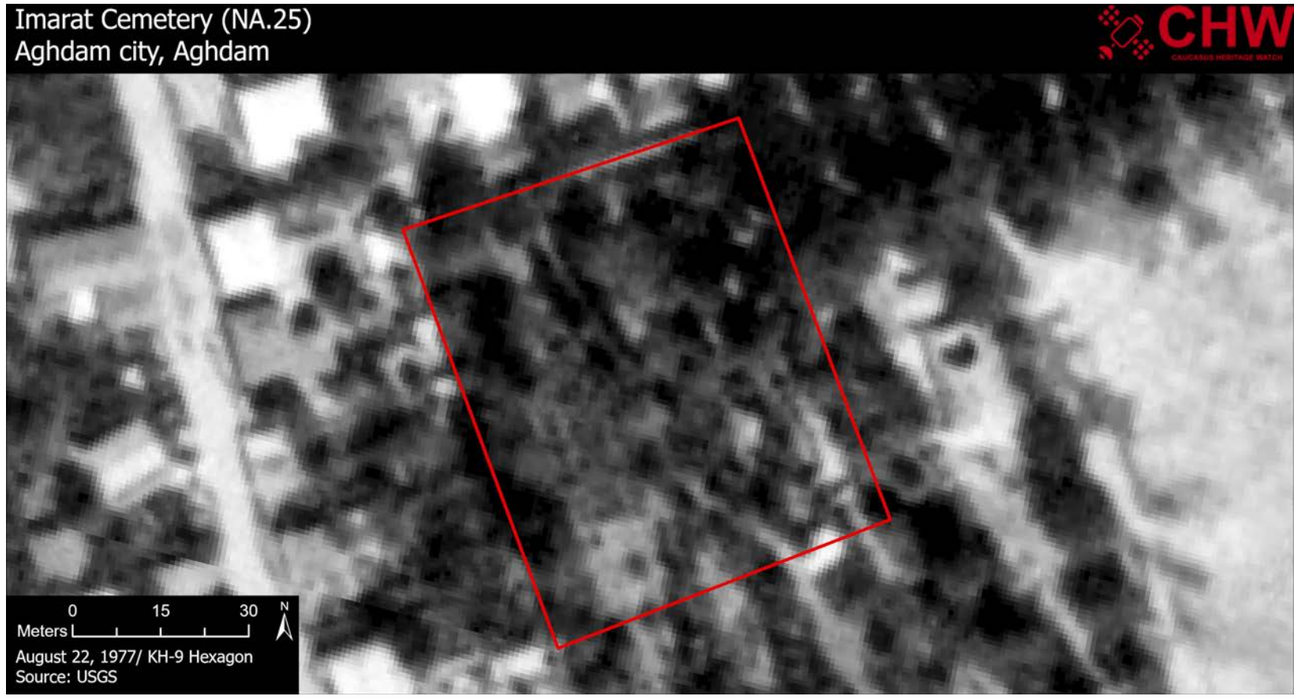
Status: Major damage

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Imarat Cemetery, located in the city of Aghdam, is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. But CHW has include this site in its analysis given its historical importance. The cemetery includes several mausolea of important historical figures (e.g., Panah Ali Khan, Ibrahim Khalil Khan, and Mehdigulu Khan Javanshir). In addition, the cemetery was the focus of an archeological expedition during the 1920s (Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4), according to which the oldest tombstone in the cemetery dates to 1174. The latest mausolea in the cemetery, according to the archaeologists who investigated the site, date to the 19th century.

Due to tree cover, Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1977 (right, top) does not provide a clear "baseline" condition of the cemetery during the late Soviet period. Available satellite coverage of the later years is also not suitable for assessing the changing conditions of the cemetery (right, bottom and p. 314, bottom).

Despite the limitations of the satellite imagery, CHW determines that the cemetery has sustained major damage given that a) one of the mausolea in the cemetery (Panah Ali Khan Mausoleum) sustained major damage at some point prior to 2004; b) the tomb and monument of the famous Azerbaijani poet, Khurshidbanu Natavan, was destroyed and vandalized; and c) there is evidence for vandalism and disturbance (a, b, c) of other tombstones in the cemetery.



GEOLOCATION

The Imarat Cemetery is marked on a 1:25k scale map of 1975 (for the map).

The cemetery on a map of 1975 (Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography of USSR Ministries' Council, A-39-28-B-b, 1:25,000).

IMAGE GALLERY

The cemetery after the 2020 Karabakh War

Images: Wikimedia Commons

MAUSOLEUM

Site NA.26
40.07589730N /46.8591364E

Status: Destroyed

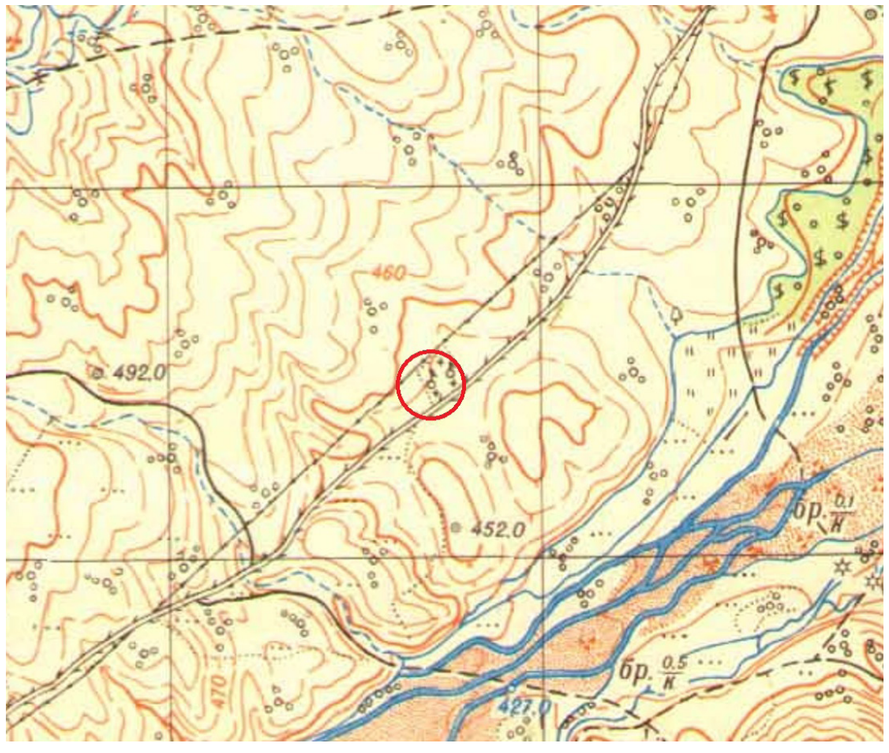
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This mausoleum, located in Gyzyl Kangarli (Aghdam district), is not included on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official list of heritage sites. CHW located the mausoleum on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1975 (see Geolocation).

Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, bottom) shows that the mausoleum was destroyed.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mausoleum using a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1975.



The mausoleum on a map of 1975 (Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography of USSR Ministries' Council, A-40-28-G-v, 1:25,000)

GARAAGHACH CEMETERY

Site NA.27
39.972343N/ 46.861079E

Status: Destroyed

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

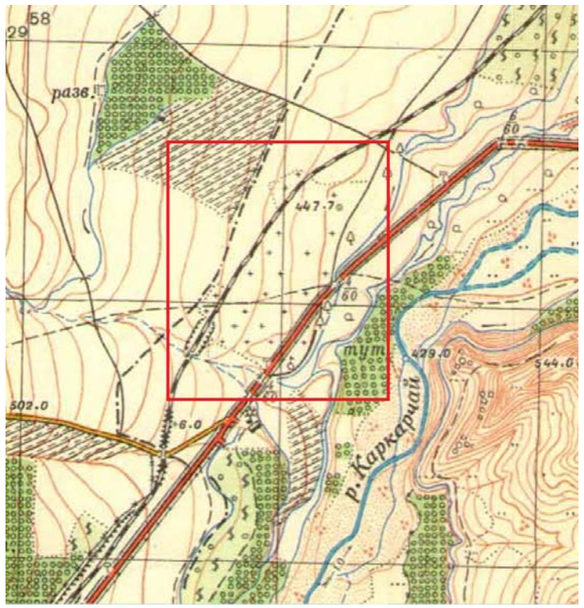
Located in Ahmadavar, in the Aghdam district, this cemetery is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites, though it contained four 19th-century mausolea on the heritage sites registry, three of which CHW documented as destroyed (a, b, c). CHW included the cemetery in this analysis due to its well-documented historical, archaeological, and cultural importance. The cemetery was the focus of an archaeological expedition during the 1920s (Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 7-8).

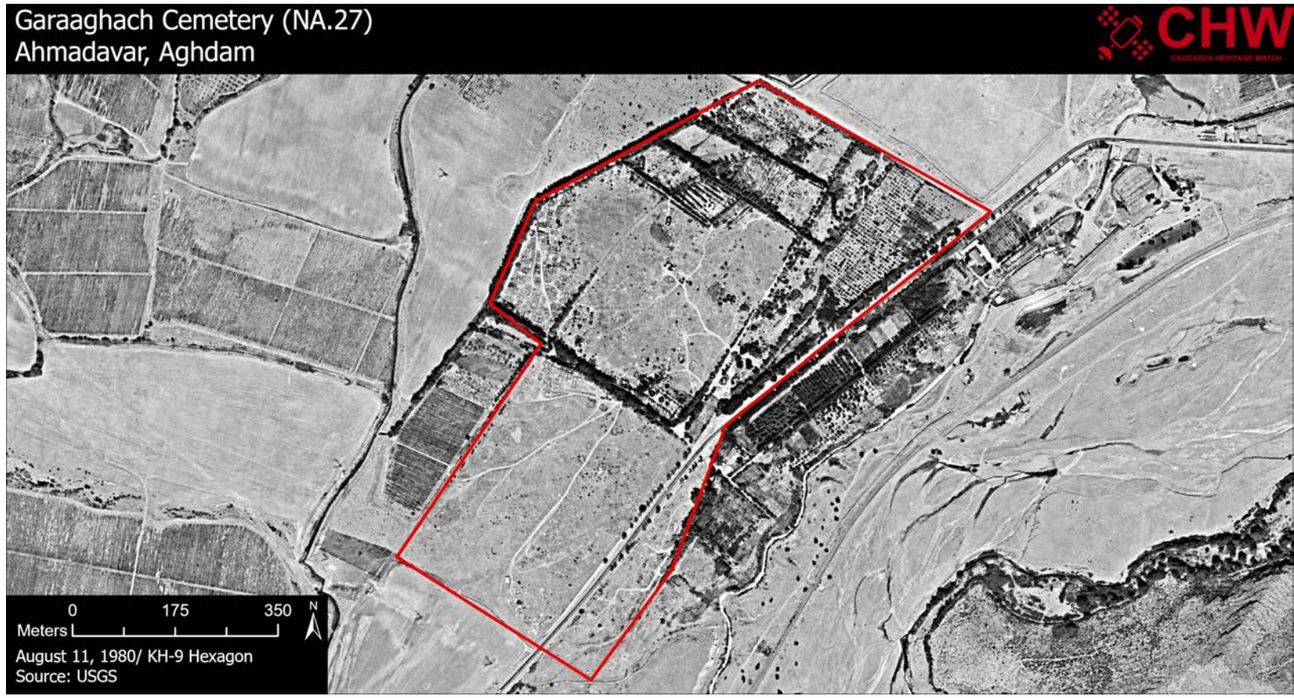
Comparison of Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 1980 (right, top) with satellite imagery captured in February 2004 (right, bottom) shows that no major change to the territory of the cemetery took place in this period. The situation remained the same until December 2011. But at some point between December 2011 (p. 320, top) and June 2014 (p. 320, bottom), nearly all the mausolea of the cemetery and other major structures were destroyed.

The destruction of the cemetery continued after 2014 as well, and by the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (p. 321, bottom) the cemetery was already mostly destroyed. The 2016 satellite image (p. 321, top) shows fire and widespread burning in the area of the cemetery.

GEOLOCATION

The cemetery is marked on a 1:25K scale topographic map of 1952 (below).

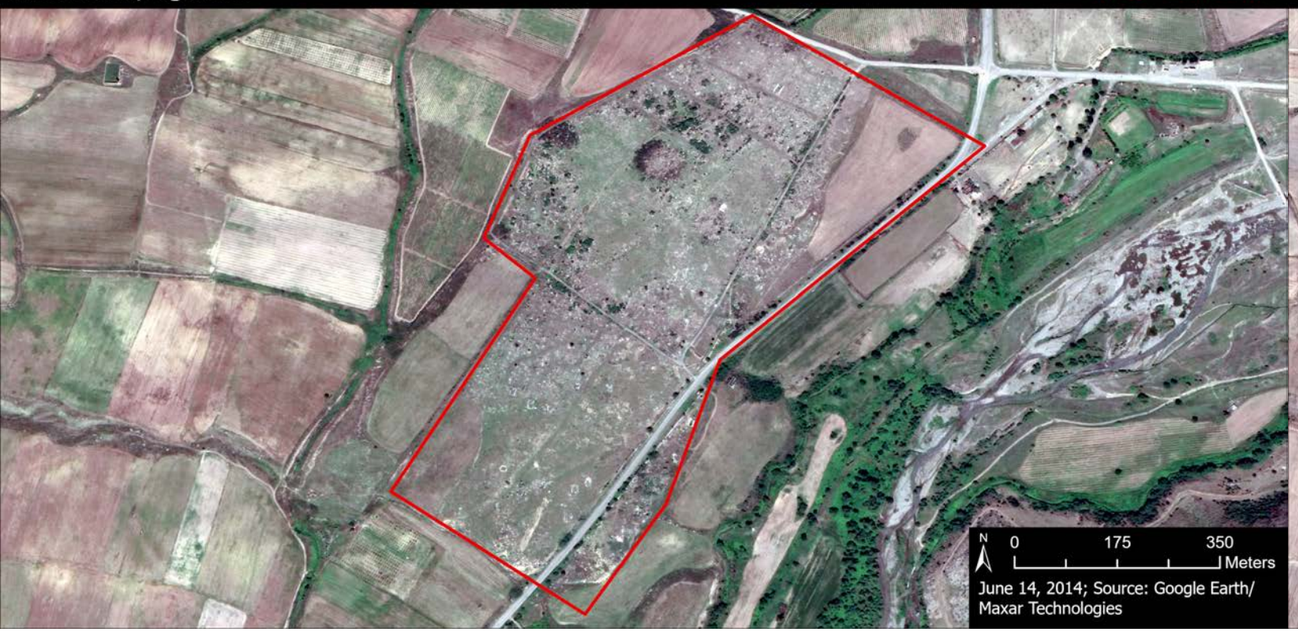




Garaaghach Cemetery (NA.27)
Ahmadavar, Aghdam

Garaaghach Cemetery (NA.27)
Ahmadavar, Aghdam

Garaaghach Cemetery (NA.27)
Ahmadavar, Aghdam



Garaaghach Cemetery (NA.27)
Ahmadavar, Aghdam

TOMB

Site NA.30
39.99318600N/ 46.938155E

Status: Unchanged

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in Imarat Cemetery, in the city of Aghdam, it appears that this tomb is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. However, it is possible that the tomb corresponds to the one listed on the state list under inventory No. 4030 (RAHL 2001). The latter is an unnamed and undated tomb in the same cemetery, but the official list provides no other information that would allow CHW to confirm its equivalence to the tomb we identified in an academic publication (Aleksandrovich et al. 1928, 4).

The KH-9 Hexagon coverage does not allow us to assess the condition of the tomb/mausoleum in the 1980s due to heavy tree cover. But there are Soviet-era images showing its condition (a, b, c). Comparison of those images and satellite imagery captured in November 2004 (right, top) and January 2021 (right, bottom) shows that the overall structural condition of the tomb has remained unchanged.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the tomb based on Soviet-era images (a, b, c).

SHAHBULAG MOSQUE

Site NA.32
40.06947200N/ 46.904670E

Status: Unchanged

Image: Wikimedia Commons Date: December 2021

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Located in the village of Shahbulag (Aghdam district), the Shahbulag Mosque is not listed on the Republic of Azerbaijan's official registry of heritage sites. CHW included this mosque in its analysis based on information from a scholarly publication on the architect Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi (Garabaghli 1995). According to this source, the mosque dates to the 18th century.

The mosque is not visible on Hexagon satellite imagery, but it does appear on modern satellite imagery captured in December 2011 (right, top) and April 2019 (right, bottom). Due to tree cover, comparison does not allow us to fully assess the condition of the structure and its change during this period. But images pre- and post-dating the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War (see Image Gallery) show that the mosque is well-preserved.

GEOLOCATION

CHW geolocated the mosque using a video (at 07:16-07:40) post-dating the 2020 war.

IMAGE GALLERY

Images: Wikimedia Commons. Date: 2015-16

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MEDIA **MATTERS**

IMAGE CREDITS

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Page	Scene	Source
Cover	Ibrahim Khalil Khan Mausoleum (N.4028).	Photo uploaded to Wikimedia Commons by Toghrul R and reproduced under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.
4-5	1901 drawing of the Garaaghach Cemetery and the now-destroyed Ughurlu Bey Mausoleum (N.4058).	Published in Belyavskij N. N. 1901 Utverzhdenie Russkogo Vladychestva na Kavkaze. Tom 1: 224. this version uploaded to Wikimedia Commons by Руниверсand reproduced here under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.
10-11	Regional Map	©CHW 2023.
18-19	Impact Maps	©CHW 2023.

Land Acknowledgements:

Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:no' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:no' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York state and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:no' dispossession, and honor the ongoing connection of Gayogohó:no' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

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Cornell Institute of Archaeology
and Material Studies
Cornell Univerity
261 McGraw Hall
Ithaca NY 14853 USA

Twitter
@CaucasusHW

Facebook
@CaucasusHW

Email
chw@cornell.edu

Website
caucasusheritage.cornell.edu

S2

CHW

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