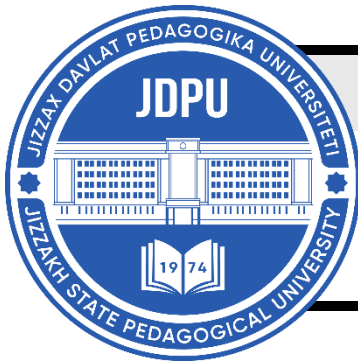


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METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL****MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC –  
METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL**<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>**THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT GATES AND THE FORTRESS  
WALL OF TASHKENT****Nasir Shakirovich Saidkhanov***Scientific secretary, Professor**Physical-Technical Institute of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences**Tashkent, Uzbekistan**E-mail: [said@uzsci.net](mailto:said@uzsci.net)***Rano Boburovna Fazilova***Bachelor**National University of Uzbekistan**Tashkent, Uzbekistan**E-mail: [said@uzsci.net](mailto:said@uzsci.net)***Milana Konstantinovna Saidkhanova***Bachelor**National University of Uzbekistan**Tashkent, Uzbekistan**E-mail: [said@uzsci.net](mailto:said@uzsci.net)*

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**ABOUT ARTICLE**

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**Key words:** valley, map, images, gates, fortress walls, digital development, teshik passages, mosque, tourist routes.

**Received:** 09.11.23**Accepted:** 11.11.23**Published:** 13.11.23

**Abstract:** The historical role of the fortress walls of ancient cities is described. The data characterizing the fortress wall and gates of Tashkent are given, including the growth of the length of the fortress wall and the number of gates with the expansion of the city.

The paper describes the work done in the Department of Digital Development of the Tashkent Khokimiyat to determine the exact location of the 12 gates of Tashkent and the Tashkent wall, which are of great historical interest. The characteristics of the gates of the city, the fortress wall, its length are given. The purpose of the so-called teshik passages, which did not have the full status of gates, is described. The restoration of the location of the gate and the fortress wall will certainly make it possible to significantly expand the tourist routes of the city.

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## INTRODUCTION

From ancient times, fortress walls were created as a means of protecting the population from enemy invasions. They were based on the creation of impassable barriers and were intended for the defense of cities and castles. Fortress walls were necessary in conditions of constant wars and invasions, when the border of the state was not defined, and enemies could attack at any moment. Due to its power and reliability, the fortress walls prevented attacks and ensured the safety of the inhabitants of the city.

There were usually gates in the fortress walls, they were guarded by armed guards and equipped with various mechanisms to control the opening and closing of the gates. Moreover, the fortress walls could perform not only a defensive, but also an economic function. Inside the walls there were city markets, workshops and residential buildings.

What were the first fortress walls?

The first fortress walls appeared in ancient Egypt around 3000 BC. These walls were built around the main capital of the country, Memphis, to protect it from enemy attacks.

Another early example of fortress walls is the Chinese Wall, which was built in the 7th century BC. This wall was about 8851 km long and its construction took about 2000 years.

In ancient Greece, fortress walls originated in the 5th century BC. These walls were usually built around cities to protect them from barbarian raids and military attacks.

No less important was the social significance of the fortress walls. With their help, the urban community could control the entry and exit from the city, regulate trade relations and influence the status of serfs, mainly peasants, who had the opportunity to receive and protect their status only inside the city walls.

Fortress walls can also serve as a symbol of protection and firmness. In some cities, they are used as a logo and symbol of the city. Fortresses and castles are also frequent elements in literature and cinema.

In general, the fortress walls continue to arouse admiration and interest not only among historians, but also among the general public.

More than two thousand years ago, an urban planning culture was born in the valley of the Chirchik River – the progenitor of modern Tashkent. As you know, the oldest civilizations originated in river valleys. Let us recall Egypt, which arose on the banks of the Nile, the Harappan civilization – in the Indus Valley, Mesopotamia, which was located on the plain between the Tigris and Euphrates, Margush on the Murghab River. And Ancient Tashkent was no exception, because water is the source of life.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Favorable geographical conditions played a key role in choosing a place to live for the first settlers of Ancient Tashkent. On map (see Fig. 1) shows graphically reconstructed archaeological and architectural monuments of Tashkent of the ancient and early medieval periods, where large-scale archaeological surveys were carried out, which helped to identify the planning structure of buildings. These are Shashtepa, Mingurik, Aktepa Chilanzar, Aktepa Yunusabad, citadel Khanabad. This made it possible to visualize a retrospective view of the buildings with a significant degree of reliability, attracting analogies similar geographically and in terms of time of operation.



Fig.1. Map of ancient Tashkent

There are also other monuments that have been preserved in the form of so—called "tepa" - hills on which significant excavations have not yet been carried out. Archaeologists laid pits here in order to identify the dating, but they are still waiting for their discoverer. In the meantime, we carefully call them Silent Hills, keeping their secret. Their location and names are given according to the archaeological map presented in the book Filanovich M.I. "Ancient and medieval history of Tashkent in archaeological sources".

A frame of modern streets is superimposed on the image of the ancient landscape of Tashkent in order to make it easier to find monuments in the structure of today's city. The route of the brand "Ancient Tashkent" passing through the main streets of the city is clearly marked. For example, the monuments of Shashtep, Aktepa Chilanzar and Mingurik unite the two main streets of Shota Rustaveli and Mukimi, and from Mingurik to Aktepa Yunusabad, the basis of the path is Amir Temur Avenue.

The map of Ancient Tashkent is a virtual reconstruction of an ancient city, which has as its main goal the preservation of cultural heritage through the popularization of its images.

Over the 2200 years of its existence, the appearance of Tashkent has changed a lot — fortresses, houses, mosques and madrasas were built, caravanserais, residential areas and neighborhoods were formed. It is almost impossible to find out exactly what the city was like in ancient times. Like many cities in the world, Tashkent was surrounded by a fortress wall and there were gates, which is of great interest to researchers. The history of the gates and the fortress wall of Tashkent is particularly interesting. It surrounded the city and protected it from enemy attacks and other external threats. With the expansion of the city, the length of the fortress wall grew, and the number of gates increased accordingly. In the X century, when Tashkent was called Binket, there were 7 gates in the city, at the beginning of the XIX century – 8, and with the expansion of the city by 1864 there were 12.

According to the authors [1], the number 12 was not chosen by chance and the city of Tashkent was the only city in the whole world with such a number of gates. Since the shape of the city wall coincided with the system of starry luminaries, scientists people guessed to build the number of gates according to the location of the 12 stars of the Zodiac according to the cycle of Torments. Thus, the 12 gates were an earthly reflection of the heavenly bodies.

Of course, both the territory and the population of Tashkent at that time were insignificant [2,3], compared to the scale of modern cities. For example, in 1865, the territory of Tashkent inside the walls was 17 sq. km. About 52 thousand people lived in the city. For comparison, we note that today the area of the capital has grown to more than 434 square kilometers, or 25 times. The population is more than 3 million, or 60 times more than 150 years ago.

After the annexation of the Turkestan Region to Russia, the peoples of Russia – Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars, multinational peoples of the Caucasus, etc. - began to move to Turkestan, and in particular to the uninhabited part of Tashkent [4]. This part of the city was called the "New City", and the name of the "Old City" remained behind the ancient part. The Ankhor River was the border between the old and new parts of the city. Residential and administrative buildings, religious ensembles, numerous workshops-shops of various artisans (blacksmiths, coiners, tinsmiths, carpenters) and bazaars were concentrated in the center of old Tashkent, where each shopping arcade belonged to merchants of a certain commodity. Wide covered streets adjoined these structures. The northern road of the center of old Tashkent was approached by roads leading from the Chigatai, Sagban, Karasarai, Takhtapul gates. There were several quarterly mosques, Beklarbek madrasahs and caravanserais on Eski Juva Square.

At the intersection of the roads from Kokand, Koimas, Beshagach and Samarkand gates (Chorsu) on a high hill there were Kukeldash madrasah, Khoja Ahrar Madrasah and Juma Mosque. From Chorsu to the west towards the Namazgoh Mosque there was a whole street of craft workshops. There were a lot of them in the head sections of all radial streets.

The city of Tashkent began to grow rapidly both in terms of territory and population.

The fortress walls and gates of Tashkent began to lose their purpose. This led to the fact that after the capture of Tashkent by Russian troops, the population of the new city dismantled the walls for building materials. In 1890, the last gates were demolished, but some areas of the city have retained the names of the gates to this day. It is reliably known that in 1865-1872, part of the wall between the Kashgar and Beshagach gates with a length of 3,700 meters, including the Kokand and Koimass gates, were destroyed.

By now, there are almost no traces of either the fortress walls or the gates of the city.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

According to the State Program for the implementation of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, in the "Year of Youth Support and Public Health Promotion", the administration of the capital was instructed to restore 12 ancient city gates and add them to the tourist route [5,6].

The Department of Digital Development of the Tashkent Khokimiyat is working on the creation of a geoinformation system of the capital. The basis of this system are maps – modern and archival [7]. Therefore, specialists of the department explore old Tashkent and compare maps of the city of different years.

According to the state program [8,9,10] for 2021, the installation sites of the restored gates should be historically reliable. This is difficult to do, because previously their location was judged by maps from 1890 — then most of the wall and gate had already been destroyed. However, thanks to the unique archival materials in the Department of Digital Development, it was possible to determine their exact location.

In the article by K.Fayzullayev published in gazeta.uz [11] describes the enormous work done by scientists to establish the appearance of Tashkent in the recent past - 150-200 years ago.

The twelve gates of the capital (darbaza), starting from the north, were located clockwise in the following order: Korasaroy, Takhtapul, Labzak, Kashgar, Kokand, Koimas, Beshagach, Komolon, Samarkand, Kukcha, Chigatai, Sagban (see Fig. 2).

All the ancient gates of Tashkent are marked on the map above. In addition, the map shows the length of the entire wall of the Tashkent fortress (an external discontinuous line). According to reports, at the end of the 18th century, the height

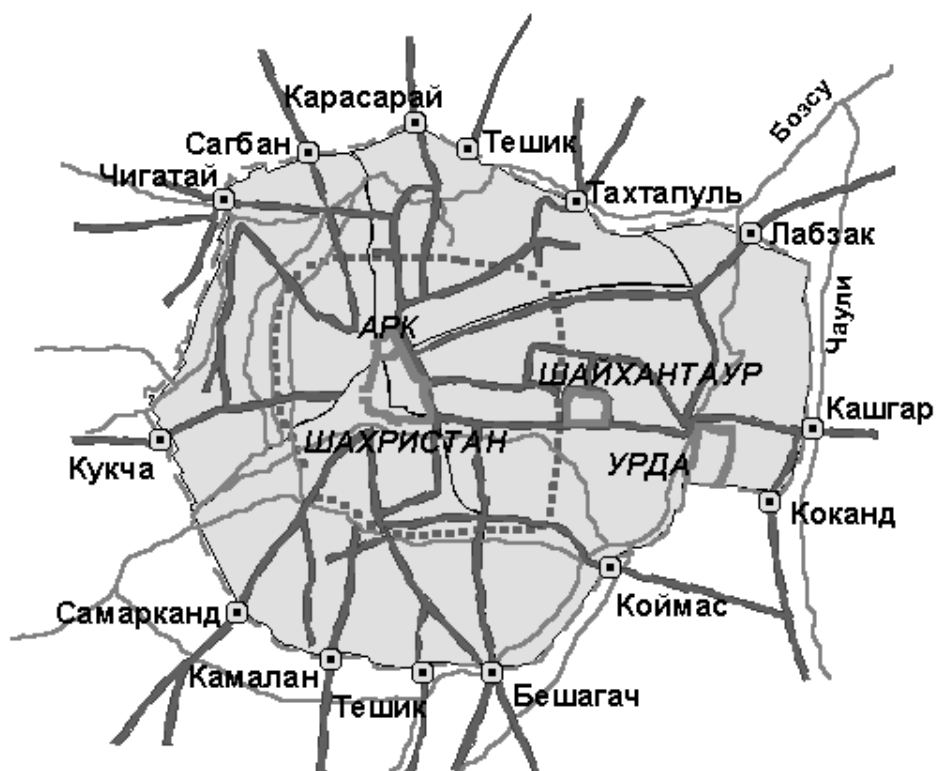


Fig. 2. 12 gates and walls of ancient Tashkent (external broken line).

of the defensive wall of the city was almost 8 meters, and the width of the top was up to 2 meters. The length of the perimeter of the wall is 18.2 km, and the total area of the city is 26.4 sq.km.

The distances between the gates were equal:

Beshagach – Teshik - 955 m, Teshik – Kamolon - 541 m,  
 Kamolon – Samarkand - 999 m, Samarkand – Kukcha - 1542 m,  
 Kukcha – Chigatai - 2353 m, Chigatai – Sagban - 909 m,  
 Sagban – Karasaray - 1038 m, Karasarai – Teshik-kopka - 486 m,  
 Teshik-kopka – Takhtapul - 1030 m, Takhtapul – Labzak - 1651 m,  
 Labzak – Kashgar - 1,373 m, Kashgar – Kokand - 1247 m,  
 Kokand – Koymas - 1416 m, Koimas – Beshagach - 1818 m

Figure 3 shows the fortress walls and gates of Koimas in the middle of the 19th century (reconstruction option).

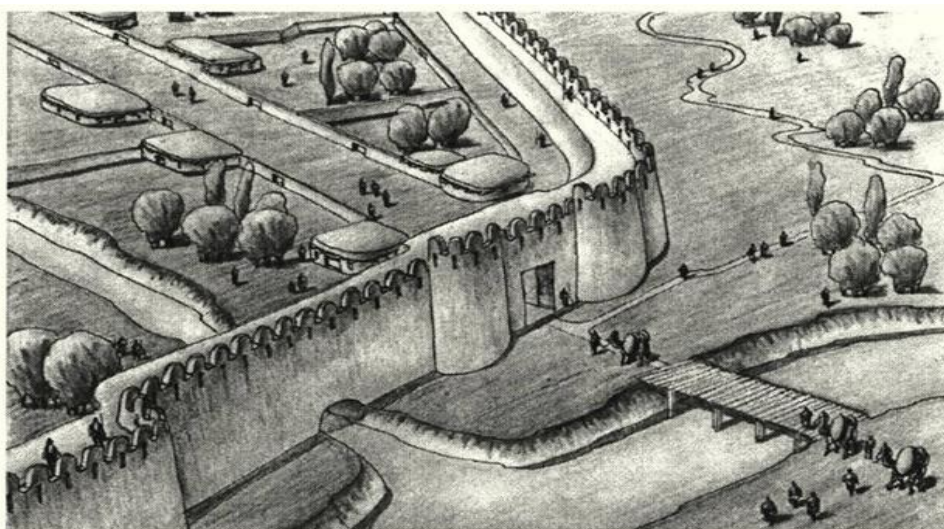


Fig.3. Fortress walls and gates of Koimas in the middle of the 19th century.

In addition to the gates, there were passages through the fortress wall of the so-called Teshik, which functioned if necessary. For example, 430 meters to the east of the Karasarai gate there was a passage through the fortress wall – Teshik-kopka, behind the wall there was a cemetery. As well as some names of gates such as: Samarkand-darbaza, Chigatai-darbaza, the names of some holes have been preserved. For example, one of the localities of Tashkent is called Teshik-kopka. Teshik passageways did not have the full status of gates. According to the architect V. Nielsen in his book "At the origins of Modern Urban Planning in Uzbekistan": there were 6 or 7 passages in the walls along the northern, western and southern facades (teshik). Judging by the old topographic plans, these were not accidental destruction of walls, but special gaps, which are suitable for roads and streets of urban development. Perhaps, during periods of military danger, these passages were sealed up, but in peacetime they functioned and served to connect the city with the countryside.

In 1865 Tashkent consisted of four administrative-territorial units – dakha. In the south-east was Beshagach, in the south–west – Kukcha, in the north – Sebzor and in the east - Shaikhantaur (Fig.4).



Fig. 4. Dakha and the gates of old Tashkent.

At the end of the XVIII century, Tashkent was ruled by the dahs of four khokims competing with each other, and each of the four parts of the city had three gates. Each daha reflected the four cardinal directions and the four seasons. The center was considered to be the market square-Chorsu Bazaar. The market square is a place of trade, handicraft production, and often a place of battle, which is why in the XVIII century. it was named "Jangoh" ("Place of battle").

The largest was the southeastern handicraft daha Sheikhantaur with an area of 624 hectares, which housed 48 mahallas with Koimass, Kokand and Kashgar gates.

The northeastern Sebzar already consisted of 38 mahallas located on an area of 311 hectares and held the gates of Labzak, Takhtapul ("Toll"), Karasaray ("Black Palace"), artisans lived here, but the main "asset" were suburban arable land and meadows and mills on the Kalkauz canal.

The northwestern Kukcha, the smallest daha, contained 31 mahallas on an area of 341 hectares, with Sagban, Chagatai and Kukchi gates. It was inhabited mainly by potters and tanners.

Southwest Beshagach had 32 mahallas on an area of 441 hectares, which owned the Samarkand, Kamalon and Beshagach gates, was famous for gardens behind the wall and brick factories.

At the head of each daha was a khokim. This time is known in history as the era of "Chor Hakim" — "four rulers". Their functions consisted in the strict execution of Beck's orders, collecting taxes, keeping the streets clean, fixing roads, walls and irrigation facilities. Sometimes the scythe was found on a stone, and the daha fought among themselves. Fighting broke out at the bazaar, on the aforementioned Dzhangokha [12].

Each gate has its own history. For example, what is a Labzak.

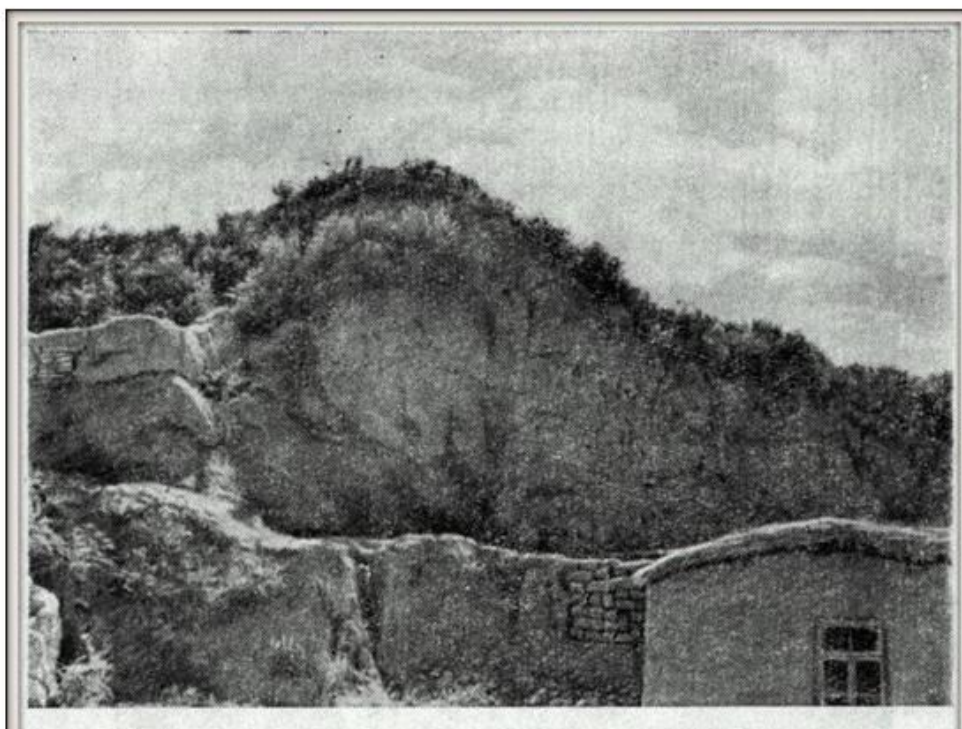




Fig.5. The remains of the city wall of the XIX century, in the area of the former Labzak gate

The name of the district, which all Tashkent residents know as Labzak, comes from the phrase "labi zakh", which in Tajik translates as "raw land" ("labi" — "shore", and "zakh" — "damp, wet") and is found in ancient documents.

The Labzak district, which is located north of the ancient city center, really has an ancient history. The gates of Labzak, Takhtapul and Karasarai, named after the adjacent places, were owned by the Sebzar part. In the XIX century, Labzak was still an uninhabited suburban area, but in the late XIX, early XX centuries, the area began to be actively built up. But it began to develop especially during the Great Patriotic War, when an aircraft factory evacuated from the Khimki suburbs was located here.

The works [7] describe in detail how the Department of Digital Development managed to determine the exact location of the walls and gates of the city thanks to archival documents found in the archival funds of the Russian Federation.

The authors include maps of Tashkent from 1865-1872 to these documents. One of these documents is called the "Plan of the city of Tashkent with its surroundings", compiled by Lieutenant Kolesnikov and Ensign Timofeev in 1865-1866 (Fig.6.).

As the author notes [7] there is no data on the existence of more ancient maps yet. Therefore, this is the earliest map known to date, showing the territory of the city of Tashkent with its surroundings. The map size is 180x194 cm. The map scale is 100 fathoms in 1 inch (1 inch is 2.54 cm, 1 fathom is 2.1336 m). In the metric system, the scale is 1:8400.

The map covers the territory of the Tashkent oasis with an area of approximately 15x15 km: in the south – the area of the Southern Railway Station, in the north – Kuloktepa in the Khasanbai area, in the west – the Urikzor market area, in the east – the territory of the Tashkent Botanical Garden [8]. Here is an example of determining the location on a modern map of the Sagban Gate. Figure 7 shows the road to the Sagban Gate (a thick line running from bottom to top). We will draw the same line on the topographic plan of Tashkent in 2019 (Fig.8) and we will see that the same road has been preserved



Fig.6. Map of Tashkent city in 1865.



Fig. 7. Sagban Gate on the map of 1865-1866.

in the form of Sagban Street. According to Fig. 7, it is possible to determine where the Sagban Gate was located relative to today's landmarks. By this method, the author [11] determined the location of all the gates of Tashkent with an accuracy of 10m.

## CONCLUSION

By superimposing the map in Fig.7 on the modern one, the exact location of all the gates was obtained and to find out where the fortress wall passed [4]. The accuracy of determining the location of the gate is about 10 meters.

By comparing the maps of 1866 and 2019, the author managed to identify other historical places of Tashkent. On the map of 1866, the village of Nagai-Kurgan is displayed in that place, which today has become the mahalla of the same name in the Sergeli district. The layout of the streets of this area has also



Fig.8. Sagban Street on the 2019 topoplane (on the left).

Fig.9. Sagban Street on the 2019 orthophotoplane (on the right).

been preserved. In 1866, Nogai Kurgan was the only place in Tashkent where potatoes were grown [12,13]. The villagers came from Muslim regions of Russia.

Another find is a part of the fortress wall of the old city with a length of about 350 meters (see Fig. 7). It was used as a wall of a new fortress built after the capture of Tashkent in 1865 [14]. Note that on the site of the new fortress from 1810 to 1821 there was a Kokand fortress, that is, Urda (the citadel in which the rulers lived) [15]. Later it was moved to the north. After moving, the size of Urda was about 420x480 m (the size of the old fortress is unknown). The palace of the ruler of Tashkent (Khan's Palace) was located in Urda. Historical documents confirm that immediately after the capture of Tashkent in 1865, Urda was rebuilt and new quarters appeared [16].



Fig.10. The walls of the new fortress on the map of 1865-1866.

The restoration of the location of the gate and the fortress wall will certainly make it possible to significantly expand the tourist routes of the city.

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