



5.0 Sadar Bazaar Heritage Trail

5.1 Introduction and General Guidance

The Sadar Bazaar Heritage Trail was designed using information gathered from extensive site and route assessments conducted by the project team and BVDU students, and drew from a preliminary list of sites provided by Janwani. Consultation with local stakeholders and informants provided insights which helped to improve the assessment tool and guide the project team's selection of sites and routes to assess.

The project team was asked by Janwani to design the trail route to include as many sites as possible, which could be experienced interactively by visitors. This directive guided the initial stages of trail design. However, through site assessment it became apparent that there are few sites fitting this description in the study area. Unlike heritage sites in central Pune, where Janwani runs another heritage trail, most heritage sites in Sadar Bazaar are not large monuments or municipally-owned former mansions which lend themselves well to being entered and explored by large tour groups. Most religious sites in this area do not welcome outside guests, most heritage residences are

still being used as private homes, and many heritage businesses are of the same type so it would be repetitive to enter more than one.

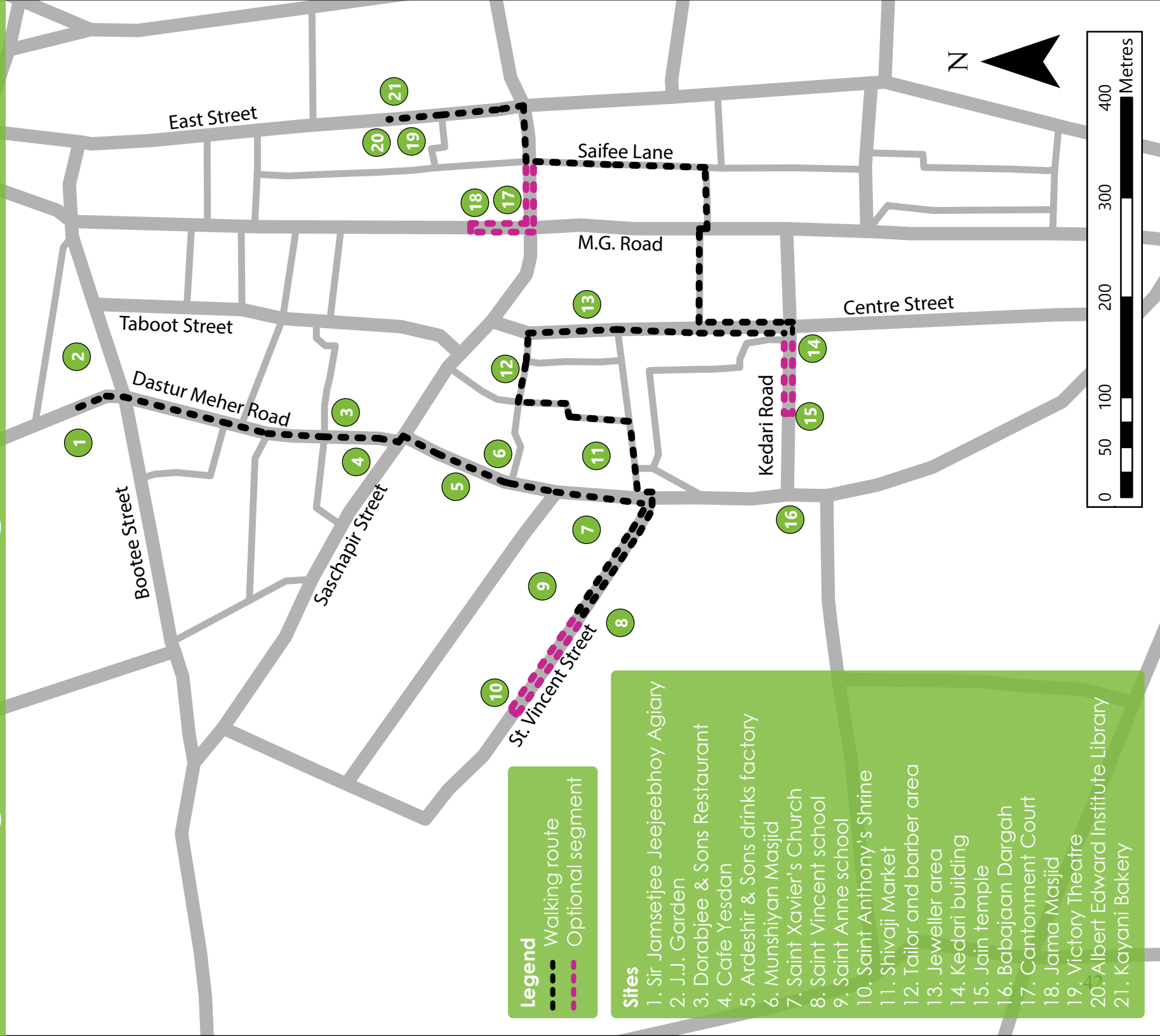
The focus of the Sadar Bazaar trail is therefore less on exploring the inside of a few specific buildings, and more on exploring the public and semi-private spaces of a community as diverse and alive today as it was almost two hundred years ago. Trail visitors will see heritage buildings both grand and humble, well-maintained and unkempt, beautiful and functional. Furthermore they will become acquainted with an overall heritage area which is the sum of its public and private spaces, its buildings and streets, its old features and new. The project team has used its assessment tool to find routes that not only showcase particular heritage sites but also are pleasant to walk along, and give a sense of the area's overall heritage character.

In order for guests to experience the liveliness and living heritage of Sadar Bazaar, it is recommended that the walks occur at a time when local residents and business owners are going about their daily business. The Bazaar is by definition a commercial area; to visit in the early morning before the

shops open would be to entirely miss out on the heritage character of the area. Indeed, many streets are dormant and uninteresting until late in the morning when businesses open and the streets come to life. The project team therefore recommends that the walk begin no earlier than late morning.



Sadar Bazaar Heritage Walking Trail



5.2 Route Highlights

5.2.1: Jamschetji Jeejeebhoi Agiary

The walk begins in front of Jamschetji Jeejeebhoi Agiary, which makes a convenient starting point due to the room in front of its gate to gather and wait for all guests to arrive. In addition, there is parking nearby on Dastur Meher Road, and the temple is easy to find from nearby landmarks such as the SGS Mall and J.J. Garden.

Gathering in front of the gate of the agiary, the guide can briefly explain the history of Pune Cantonment and Sadar Bazaar, highlighting the significance of the local Parsi community who worship at this site. With permission of the temple management, the tour group may enter the grounds of the agiary, where the guide can point out the community centre, the guest house, and temple, from which guests can hear the sounds of prayers being recited within. This site was chosen for inclusion on the walk due to its significance to the local Parsi community; its interesting



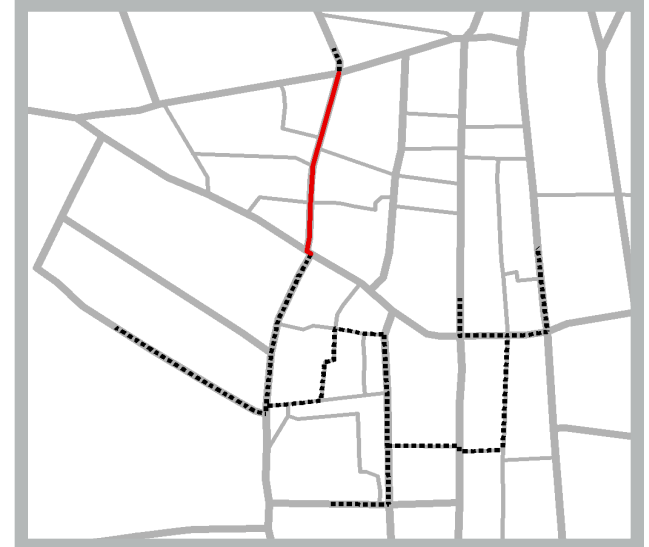
architecture; the opportunity for visitors to enter the grounds and feel a sense of interaction with the site; and its quiet, shaded, spacious grounds which make it appropriate for a tour group.



5.2.2: *Dastur Meher Road*

After visiting Jeejeebhoi Agiary, the tour crosses Bootee Street and proceeds south along Dastur Meher Road. This street was chosen for two main reasons. Firstly, it offers a “heritage landscape” - the streetscape is dominated by original shop houses on both sides, which are characteristic of Sadar Bazaar as well as being architecturally and historically interesting. Secondly, street

assessment revealed that Dastur Meher provides an ideal walking environment. Additionally, the street is significant to the Parsi community, with notable Parsi establishments such as the historic Yezdan Café and Dorabjee’s Restaurant, as well as a Parsi funerary complex. There is an opportunity to stop at Yezdan Café at the south end of the street and purchase a drink or snack.



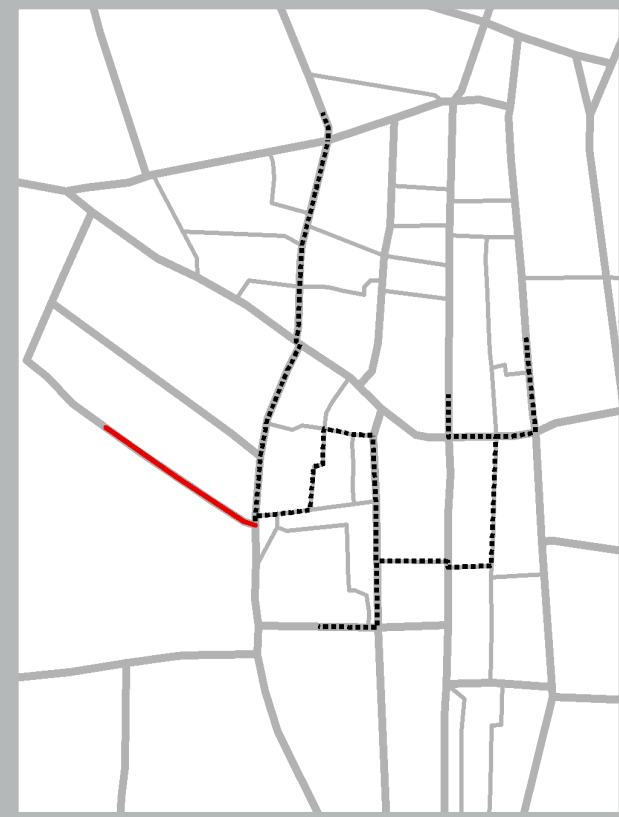
5.2.3: Gaffer Beg Street

The tour continues south along Gaffer Beg Street, with the option to use the narrow footpath on the east side of the street. Ar-deshir's Drinks Factory on the west side of the street is an interesting heritage property and the only manufacturing site on the tour. It illustrates the threats to heritage properties in Sadar Bazaar due to lack of maintenance and incompatible development. The assessment revealed that the ground-level factory is overshadowed by an adjacent 6-storey building built in an incompatible modern style. The factory itself is in poor repair, with rafters out of alignment and the roof showing signs of decay. Contrasted with the well-conserved heritage buildings on St. Vincent Street, the drinks factory illustrates the negative consequences of failing to manage heritage assets in Pune Cantonment.

Continuing past the drinks factory, the walk route crosses over to the west side of the street before reaching Shivaji Market, in order to avoid close proximity to the trucks of chickens being brought for slaughter in the market. This is an important function of the market which should not be hidden from

view, but it has an unpleasant odour and should be moved past without delay.





5.2.4: St. Vincent Street

Turning right on St Vincent Street, the group may gather at the side of the road to discuss both local colonial history and the history of the local Christian community. The stop is surrounded by relevant colonial-style Christian institutions including St. Xavier's Church, St. Anne's School, and St. Vincent's School. This portion of St. Vincent Street was chosen for inclusion on the tour for its interesting colonial architecture, as

well as providing access to so many of the heritage sites identified by Janwani. The assessment also revealed St. Vincent Street to be a pleasant walking environment due to its calm and quiet atmosphere, its low vehicle traffic, and the ample shade from its tall trees.

If visitors are particularly interested in the Christian sites on St. Vincent Street, there is the option to walk a few minutes further along the street to see St. Anthony's Shrine,

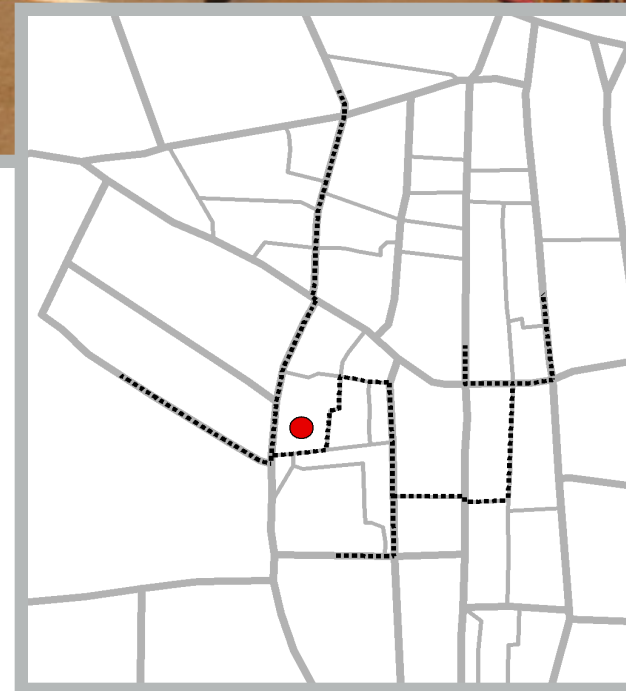
where the tour group may enter the courtyard in silence and see people worshipping at the shrine. This heritage site is included only as an optional extension of the walk because it adds several minutes to the tour.



5.2.5 Shivaji Market Area

Doubling back along St. Vincent Street and crossing Gaffer Beg Street, the tour turns left on Dr. Saldhana Street and enters Shivaji Market, offering ample room to stand and admire the Gothic architecture of the market building, and discuss the history of the market. The Market is a lively and engaging place to visit, and the tour should give guests some time to wander inside to see

the vendors at work and the historic market clock. The Market is also an illustration of living heritage, still being used for the same function as it has always been. Assessment found Dr. Saldhana Street to be the preferred side from which to enter and exit the market, as it allows tour groups to avoid passing through the foul-smelling slaughter area, instead highlighting the fragrant produce sold on Dr. Saldhana Road.

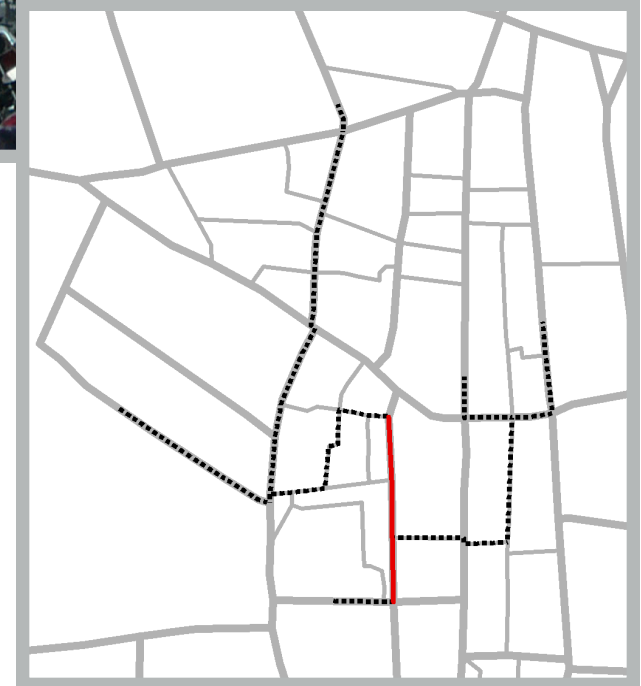




5.2.6: Centre Street

The walk continues north and then east through the Tailors and Barbers area, a historic professional enclave identified on Janwani's list of heritage sites. After passing through the area, the walk proceeds south along Centre Street through the Jewellers Area, another historic professional enclave. This portion of the walk was included not only because it includes two professional

enclaves identified as heritage sites by Janwani, but also because site and street assessment revealed the area to be a pleasantly walkable environment with interesting historic architecture. When shops are open, this is a lively, authentic small-scale commercial area. Centre Street in particular is dominated by old shop houses characteristic of Sadar Bazaar heritage.





5.2.7: Kedari Road

The walk down Centre Street ends with an opportunity to gather on the footpath of Kedari Road to admire the Parsi architecture of the Kedari Building and the view of Babajaan Dargah at the end of the street. Assessors found that it is not possible for tour groups

to enter the dargah, but that it creates an attractive “terminal vista” at the end of Kedari Road and is therefore best experienced from a distance while standing in front of the Kedari Building. If tour groups are interested, it is possible to walk west along Kedari Road and see an ornate Jain Temple on the south side.

5.2.8: Kolsa Galli and M.G. Road

After visiting the Kedari Building, the walk doubles back along Centre Street and turns east onto Kolsa Galli. Assessment showed Kolsa Galli to be an interesting place to walk because it is pedestrian-dominated with no four-wheeler traffic, quieter than the main roads, and its streetscape consists of colonial and Parsi shop houses with few modern buildings. It is also home to a small bakery where it is possible to stop and buy a snack. For these reasons, Kolsa Galli was chosen as the preferred route connecting Centre Street and M.G. Road. However, the street is significantly less interesting in the morning before shops open. On such occasions when the walking tour might occur in the early morning, it is advisable to walk from Centre Street to M.G. Road via the livelier Kedari Road, and then turn north on M.G. Road to reach the east end of Kolsa Galli.

There is room to gather in the east end of Kolsa Galli to discuss M.G. Road and its significance in the history of Sadar Bazaar. From here the group can observe the hustle and bustle and colonial architecture of M.G. Road before crossing it and entering the very narrow lane across from Kolsa Galli.



This lane opens into a small, quiet, and shaded residential courtyard, which offers a place to stop and talk. At the end of this lane, the tour turns north onto Saifee Street.

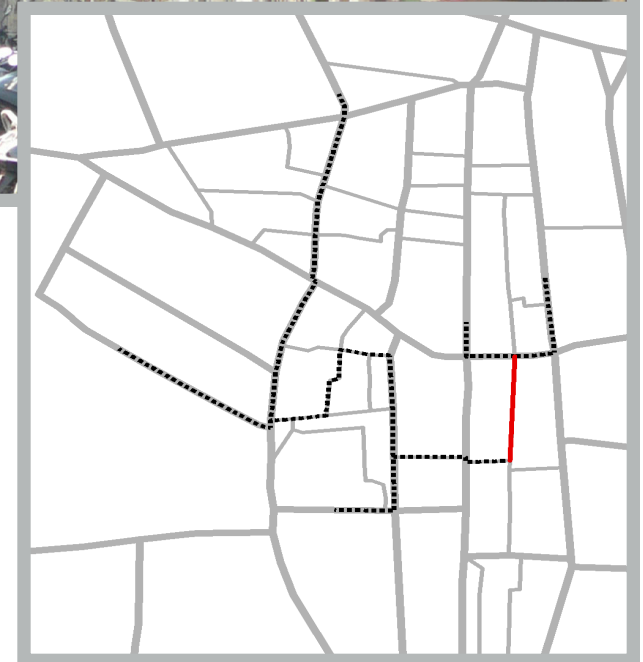




5.2.9: Saif Street

Saif Street is a quiet residential and commercial street running parallel to M.G. Road. Its assessment found it to be a quiet, shaded, and pedestrian-friendly street on which a group could walk more easily than along M.G. Road. Saif Street is also much less well-known than M.G. Road and therefore

offers visitors a glimpse of a part of Sadar Bazaar that they have not seen before. Assessors noted that some buildings on this street had Arabic writing above their doors, and informant interviews revealed that this street is home to many Muslims. Saif Street would therefore be an ideal place to stop and discuss the history of the Muslim community in Sadar Bazaar.



5.2.10: East Street

At the end of Saifee Street, the tour crosses Sachapeer Road. If time allows, it is possible to turn west and see the Cantonment Court and Jama Masjid on M.G. Road. The Cantonment Court is an attractive colonial building with a quiet courtyard separated from the street. Although photos are prohibited here and visits should be kept brief, this is a pleasant place to escape the street noise and talk about the administration of Pune Cantonment, and its historical and political distinctness from the rest of Pune. The Jama Masjid is an ornate and architecturally interesting mosque best viewed from the west side of M.G. Road. It is not possible for tour groups to enter.

Next, the tour moves east along the footpath of Sachapeer Road and turns north up East Street. It is possible to use the footpath in front of the corner shopping centre to avoid vehicle traffic on the road. The final sites to be visited are the Victory Theatre, Albert Edward Institute Library, and Kayani Bakery, all three of which can be seen and discussed from in front of the theatre or from the shaded forecourt of the library.



The Victory Theatre is a monumental colonial-style building with distinct carvings. The adjacent library is another handsome colonial building where it is possible to sit in the shade on the steps as the tour guide offers closing remarks. The Kayani Bakery is a renowned heritage bakery with a mix of colonial and Indian architecture. Standing in front of the bakery affords a nice view of the theatre and library. Guests may wish to enter the bakery at the end of the tour to purchase Kayani's famous Shrewsbury biscuits.



5.3 Conclusion

The Sadar Bazaar heritage walk begins with a monument of the Parsi community which has been a significant presence in the area since the Bazaar's early days, and the historic, hardly-changed streetscape of Dastur Meher Road. It ends with the modern commercial and traffic artery of M.G. Road and the 20th-21st century entertainment of the Victory Theatre. Along the way it progresses through sites important to local Parsi, Christian, and Muslim communities, as well as public spaces shared by all.

In keeping with best practices identified the case studies, the trail begins at a landmark site; includes commercial establishments along the trail to promote local businesses and give visitors a chance to stop and eat; and ensures the safety and comfort of users by following well-maintained spaces appropriate for pedestrian travel. As the trail ends at Kayani Bakery on East Street, guests can easily hail a rickshaw to bring them back to the beginning where they may have parked.

Alternatively, guests may choose to walk back through the Bazaar along Sachap-
eer Road or M.G. Road, where they have
the opportunity to shop and support local
businesses. It is hoped that if the heritage
walking trail can link Sadar Bazaar heritage

to economic opportunity, local business
owners and residents will see the value in
conserving their heritage assets and will be
supportive of future heritage manage-
ment endeavours.



