

Marrat al-Numan قادش

Idlib Governorate





FIGURE 64. Overview of Marrat al-Numan and locations where damage has occurred and is visible.

Site Description

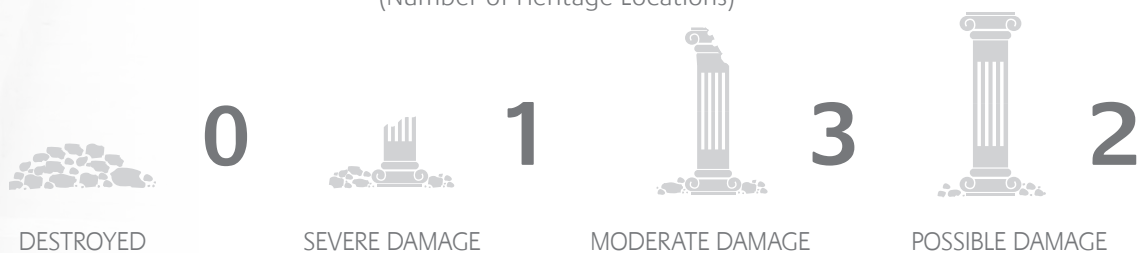
Maarat al-Numan is approximately 7 km south of Aleppo. It is a town with classical origins which came to greater prominence as one of the important points fortified by the Muslim forces against the Crusaders. This area contains the historic city of Ma'aret al-Nu'man, which contains an important mosaic museum and is a notable centre of Muslim pilgrimage.:

"The ancient citadel bears scars from the shelling that has bombarded this city."⁽¹⁾



Marrat al-Numan Damage Level

(Number of Heritage Locations)



Status Overview

Ma'arat al-Nu'man has been a centre of fighting since the start of the conflict. The following structures within the city were examined: the Citadel, Khan Assaad Pasha Al-Azem (warehouse), Khan Murad Pasha/The Mosaic Museum, Madrasa Abu Al-Fawaris and the Great Mosque and minaret. A review of satellite imagery confirms that damage has occurred to several of these historic locations within the city (see figure 65). The worst affected is the Citadel, parts of which appear to be severely damaged. Most other buildings examined show moderate structural damage and two are possibly damaged, but this cannot be confirmed. Most of this damage likely dates back to 2012.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

MARRAT al-NUMAN DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY		
	LOCATION NAME	DAMAGE LEVEL
1	The Citadel	Severe damage
2	Khan Assaad Pasha Al-Azem (warehouse)	Moderate damage
3	The Great Mosque and Minaret	Moderate damage
4	Madrasa Abu-Fawaris	Possible damage
5	Khan Murad Pasha - The Mosaic Museum of Ma'aret al-Nu'man	Possible damage

NOTE

This report provides a detailed analysis of significant changes to the cultural heritage of this site resulting from the ongoing conflict in Syria. In order to provide a contrast between the situation before the conflict and now, the sites were compared to World View 1 and 2 satellite imagery acquired on 16 December 2008, 07 October 2011, 12 October 2012 and 17 September 2014.



FIGURE 65. Damage to the Citadel.

THE CITADEL

Description

This small medieval citadel (dating back to approximately the twelfth to thirteenth centuries AD) lies on the north-western edge of the town. Historical remnants are limited due to subsequent habitation, but much of these later settlements have now been removed.

Damage Assessment

A comparison of satellite imagery reveals the Citadel appears to have sustained severe damage. By 2013, multiple structures within the Citadel have been severely damaged and another was destroyed, presumably from shelling (see figures 65 and 66).⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾



FIGURE 66. Citadel.





FIGURE 67. Damage to Khan Assad Pasha Al-Azem.

KHAN ASSAAD PASHA AL-AZEM (WAREHOUSE)

Description

This historic warehouse dates back to 1748.

Damage Assessment

A review of satellite imagery confirms that the building appears to have sustained moderate damage. There is a hole approximately 8 m in diameter in the eastern gallery roof and damage to the southwest corner of the roof (see figures 67 and 68).



FIGURE 68. Damage to Khan Assad Pasha Al-Azem.



FIGURE 69. The Great Mosque and Minaret.

THE GREAT MOSQUE AND MINARET

Description

The Great Mosque was built by noted architect Kahir al-Sarmani on the site of an ancient temple-church, and reused many of the materials. The attached minaret is particularly fine and dates back to 1170 AD.

Damage Assessment

A review of satellite imagery shows patched repairs to the roof of the northern gallery where two shells hit it in 2012. The light damage sustained by the courtyard at that time is not visible on imagery. A comparison with satellite imagery on Google Earth suggests that this damage may have occurred after 6 September 2012 (see figures 69 and 70).



FIGURE 70. The Great Mosque and Minaret.



Moderate Damage

MADRASA ABU AL-FAWARIS

Description

This religious school was probably built by the noted architect Kahir al-Sarmani in 1199 AD.

Damage Assessment

Satellite imagery suggests that the left-most part of the roof has possibly sustained light damage.

KHAN MURAD PASHA (MOSAIC MUSEUM OF MA'ARET AL-NU'MAN)

Description

This early sixteenth-century AD building is the largest khan (warehouse) in Syria. It was converted into a museum and is particularly notable for its mosaics.

Damage Assessment

Despite the visible structural damage resulting from combat around the museum, no damage is visible to the structure on a review of the imagery. Only light damage has been reported in the museum exhibits,^(iv) and looting of museum collections cannot be confirmed via satellite imagery.

(i) Examples of reports are given with the discussion of the individual buildings (below).

(ii) For example, a video report on the Facebook of the group *Le patrimoine archéologique syrien en danger*, 10 November 2012 [2], supported by a comment in a news article in the *Global Post* from January 2013 [1] showed damage to the Citadel. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=386466704754993> and <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/middle-east/syria/130111/syria-video-ruined-city-looted-museum-artifacts-destruction-maarat-al-nusman>

(iii) A video report available on the Facebook page of the group *Le patrimoine archéologique syrien en danger*, 13 November 2012 [3], shows light damage to the galleries and two holes in the roof, and photographs shared by the The Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology [4] show damage to the minaret. Other reports are available. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=386464661421864> and https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=347083355398782&set=a.326312167475901.77259.324869057620212&type=1&relevant_count=1&ref=nl

(iv) Photographs of damage to the exhibits in the courtyard are available on the Facebook page of the The Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology, 1 April 2013 [5], and a report was released by the DGAM, July 2013 [6]. Available at: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=396309307142853&set=a.326312167475901.77259.324869057620212&type=1&relevant_count=1 and <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=949>



Great Mosque of Maarrat al-Numan/Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

The Great Mosque was built by noted architect Kahir al-Sarmani on the site of an ancient temple-church, and reused many of the materials. The attached minaret is particularly fine and dates back to 1170 AD.