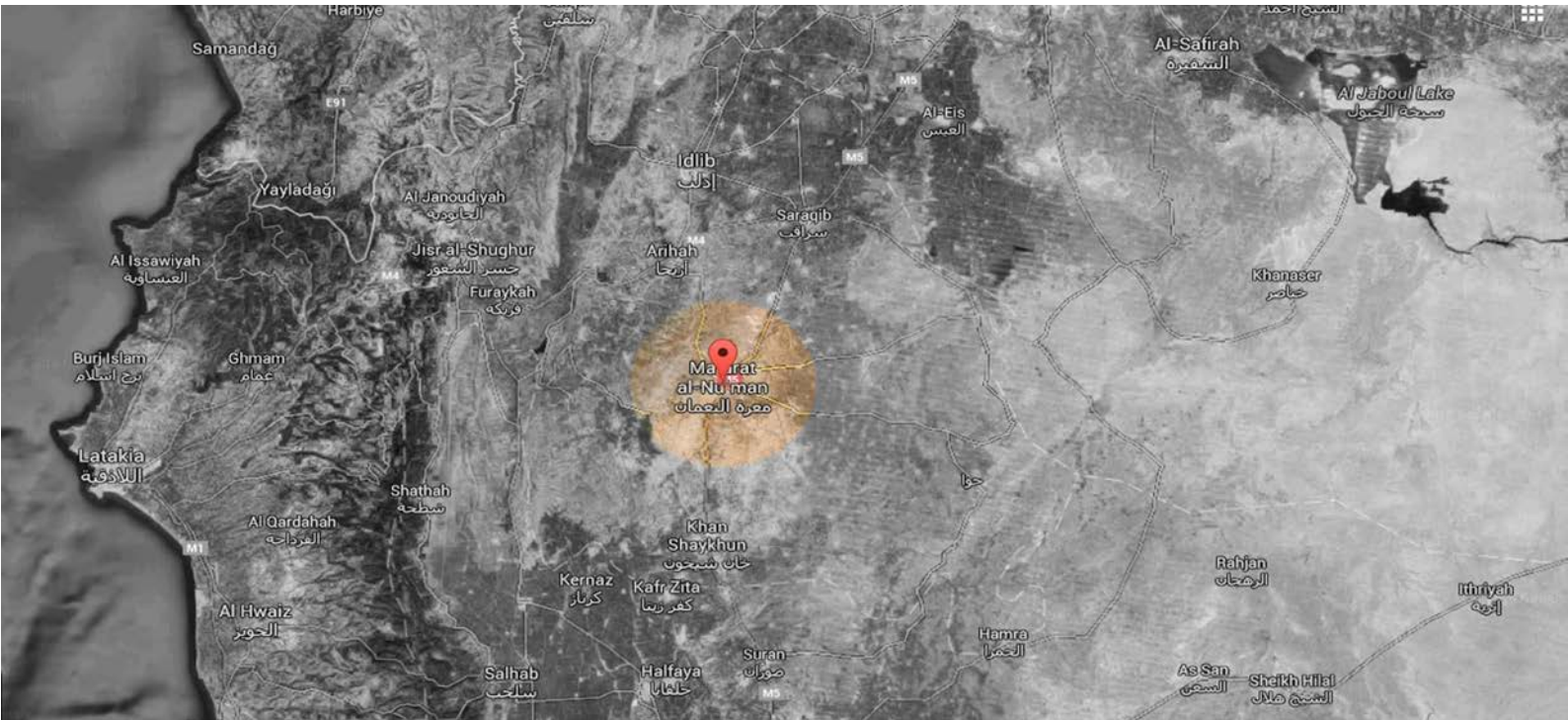


## The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

### Site Monitors Project

Airstrike on Khan Murad Pasha January 2-2018

(Museum of Maarat al-Nu'man)



On Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, at 8:30am, the museum of Ma'arrat Al-Numan was the target of an airstrike, for the third time. The museum is an architectural landmark in Ma'arra that was built by Murad Pasha Al-Jalabi, secretary of the Sultan's Records, after the Ottomans entered Syria in the second half of the sixteenth century (971 Hijri, 1564 AD). The building served as a Caravanserai and rest area for travelers as mentioned in the dedication above the main entrance:

((This oasis was built as charity by the guardian of the Sultan's records, Murad Jalabi. Allah, his angels, and people shall curse any rich [person] who prevents the poor or their cattle [from using it] 971 Hijri))

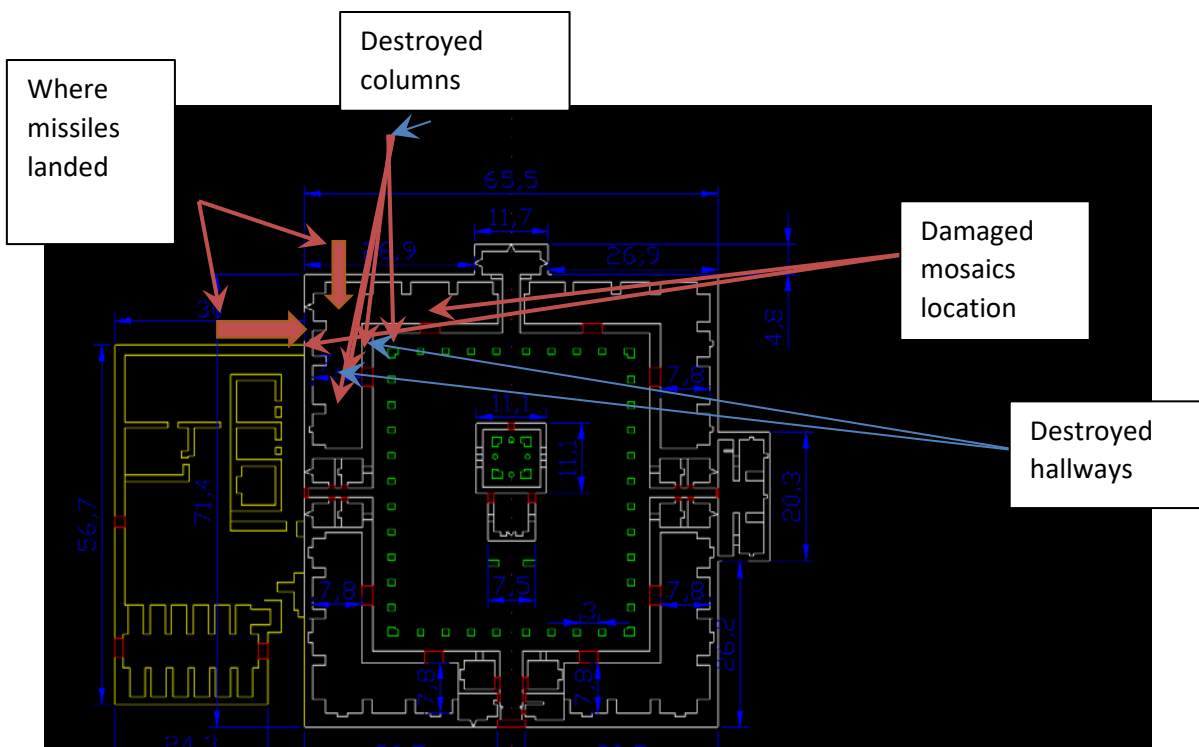
The building occupies an area of 1.7 acres and is comprised of four sections/wings with covered hallways/galleries supported by arches running along the length of each wing. Each two sections/wings are connected to service facilities. The central courtyard includes a mosque and a food station while the west side has a market, a bathhouse, a bakery, a grains warehouse, and a water distribution system that provides water for the whole facility.

The building currently serves as a specialized museum for mosaics and archeological artifacts from the UNESCO designated world heritage sites of the Dead cities. The museum includes over

2000 sq. meters of mosaics of which 1700 sq. meters are on display (currently protected with sandbags).

The airstrike today comprised of two rockets that hit the northwest corner of the building. The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative (TDA-HPI) site monitors team in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage Preservation Center (from Ma’arra) conducted a preliminary onsite assessment of the damage and documented it as follows:

- The corner of the north arched hallway of the third wing and the west arched hallway of the fourth wing took a direct missile hit and was destroyed.
- Destruction of four arch bearing Pillars, two on the north side and two on the west.
- Partial destruction of a sarcophagus transported from an area north of Ma’arrat Al-Numan in 1982 and placed on display in the courtyard.
- Destruction of the west wall in the hallway leading to the restrooms on the east side.
- Destruction to the north side of the third wing.
- A number of large storage jars (ceramic) that had been moved into the third wing were destroyed.
- Damage to some displayed mosaics in the northeastern hallway across from the third wing’s north entrance. A mosaic also fell off the wall on the west side near the west entrance.



Damage to the building











1- Damage of the ceiling from the top









## 2- Internal damages









Other damage to the museum square





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