



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

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SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Brahma Temple, Niali, Dist. – Cuttack
Past : ---
Other Name (if any): : ---

2. Location

LONGITUDE 86° 03' 46" E. **LATITUDE** 20° 08' 24" N. **ELEVATION** 31ft

Address : **Village (village code)** Niali
Post : Niali **Via**: Niali
Tehsil: Cuttack **District**: Cuttack
State : Orissa **PIN**: 754004

Approach : The temple, on the left bank of the river Prachi, a distributary of the river Mahanadi is situated on the north-eastern sector of the village Niali, which can be approached from the Niali-Madhava road (S.H.no-60).

3. Property Type

Buildings

- Palace
- Fort
- Citadel
- Govt. building
- Railway station
- Defence building
- Industrial building
- Other public buildings
- Residential building

Engineering structure

- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Other engineering structure

Religious structures

- Temple
- Mosque
- Minar
- Church
- Monastery
- Stupa
- Tomb, Mausoleum

Open space and related structures

- Public square
- Park or garden
- Graveyard
- Baolis, Well
- Tank
- Cave

Other Structures

- Wall
- Gateway
- Pillar
- Others (specify)

Note:

The temple is a modern *pidha* shrine rebuilt over the ruins of an earlier one. It enshrines an extremely rare image of Bramha and two detached Visnu images.

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE : In use

Present : Living temple, the presiding deity is an image of Chaturmukha Brahma. He displays rosary in right hand and a spouted vase in the left hand. The image measures 0.62 mtrs x 0.35 mtrs x 0.30 mtrs in length, width and thickness respectively.

Past : Worshipped.

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD : Earlier temple was built during the Sailodbhava rule

YEARS : 7th century A.D.

Precise date of Construction : 7th century A.D.

Completion : ---

Subsequent changes : The present temple rebuilt on the ruins of an earlier shrine.

Destruction / Demolition : ---

6. Ownership / Level of Protection

SINGLE / MULTIPLE : Multiple

Public : Archaeological Survey of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other (Please specify) : Protected monument of Orissa state Archaeology.

Private : ---

Any other (Please specify) : Under the care of the chief priest Surendra Mohapatra.

Name :

Address : Paryatan Bhawan, B.J.B. Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Phone : 0674-2432147

7. Association

• **WITH EVENTS**

In History : ---

In Rituals : ---

In Building Construction : ---

Any other (specify) : ---

• **WITH PERSONS**

Patron : Presently under Orissa State Archaeology.

Architect / Engineer : ---

Any other (specify) : ---

8. Statement of Significance

<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural	✓	Architectural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological	✓	Archaeological
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other (specify)	:	The present temple dedicated to Bramha is extremely rare in

Orissa but the sculpture on the basis of iconography can be assigned to the 7th century AD. The two detached images of Visnu, iconographically can be dated to the 12th century A.D.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| • Context | * Drawings (Attach extra sheet if necessary) : | No |
| Urban / Rural Setting | : | Rural Setting |
| Surroundings | | |
| | Stand in Isolation | Street |
| | Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex : | |
|
• Quantification | | |
| Area Dimension (L x B x H) | : | 10.00 mtrs x 6.00 mtrs x 7.25 mtrs
(m / cm/ feet / inch) |
| Number of Blocks | : | Two, consists of a <i>pidha vimana</i> and a R.C.C frontal <i>mandapa</i> . |
| Number of Storys | : | N.A. |
|
• Spatial Organization | | |
| Orientation | : | Facing towards west. |
| Plan | : | The <i>vimana</i> is square on plan whereas the frontal R.C.C. <i>mandapa</i> is rectangular. |
| Allocation of Spaces | : | 10.00 mtrs x 6.00 mtrs in length and breadth respectively. |

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| • Ornamentation | | |
| Exteriors | : | Plain |
| Interiors | : | Plain |
| Movable Collections | : | Four- armed Visnu image - 1.00 mtrs (L) x 0.55 (W) mtrs X 0.25 mtrs (D) in dimension. Another broken four-armed Visnu image measuring 1.05 mtrs (L) x 0.50 mtrs (W) x 0.25 mtrs (D) are found along with images of Varaha, Mahavir Hanuman and an anchor stone. |
|
* Any Other (specify) | : | --- |

10. Construction Technology

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Structural System | : | Pidha vimana of impoverished <i>Kalingan</i> order & a R.C.C frontal <i>mandapa</i> . |
| Building Techniques | : | Ashlar masonry |
| Material of Construction | : | Stone and cement plaster. |

11. Condition Assessment

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|------|
| In General | Good / Fair | : | Good |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sign of Deterioration | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Serious Deterioration | | |

