

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR/SBP- 10 **SECTION I: IDENTIFICATION** 1. Name Present Samalesvari Temple, Sambalpur Town, Dist. - Sambalpur Past Other Name (if any): Samalai Gudi 2. Location **LONGITUDE** 83° 57′ 32″ E 21⁰ 28['] 26["] N LATITUDE **ELEVATION** 508 ft. **Address** Village (village code) Bada Bazar Post: Bada Bazar Via: Sambalpur Town **Tehsil:**Sambalpur Town **District:** Sambalpur State: Orissa **PIN:** 768003 **Approach** The temple, on the left bank of the river Mahanadi is located on the left side of the road leading from Kunjelpada to Bada Bazar. It is about 3 kms from Sambalpur Railway Station. 3. Property Type Religious structures **Other Structures Buildings** Wall Palace Temple Fort Mosque Gateway Citadel Minar Pillar Government building Church Others(specify): Railway station Monastery Defence building Stupa Industrial building Tomb, Mausoleum Other public buildings Residential building Bridge Public square Note: Park or garden The temple is a mono-structural Tunnel edifice. containing the Other engineering structure Graveyard vimana surrounded by a pradakhina patha Baolis, Well and a later added frontal pillared Tank

Cave

mandapa . It has a curvilinear super

structure of regional Chauhan style..

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE: In use

Present : It is a living temple and the presiding deity hardly

conforms to any anthropomorphic iconic form. It is a huge block of stone having a convex front. In the middle a raised ridge-like elevation is regarded as the nose of the deity. The lower portion of the slab has a downward extension, which is considered as the mouth of the goddess. There is a small adjunct below the groove, which represents the chin. When properly clothed and bedecked with ornaments, it gives the look

of a face of a female.

Past : Worshipped

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD: Chauhan rule of Sambalpur State.

YEARS: 16th century A.D.

Precise date of Construction : Built by the founder Chauhan ruler Balarama Deva

(1575 -1595 A.D.)

Completion : ---

Subsequent changes: The present temple was rebuilt by the 7th Chauhan

king Chhatra Sai (1690 -1725 A.D.)

Destruction / Demolition : ---

6. Ownership / Level of Protection

SINGLE / MULTIPLE : Multiple

Public: Archaeological Survey of : Protected monument of Orissa State Archaeology and India / State Archaeology under the Endowment Department, Government of

Department / Any Other (Please Orissa.

specify)

Private

Any other (Please specify) : Samalesvari Trust Board

Name

Address : AT/P.O.- Bada Bazar , Dist.- Sambalpur, Pin -768003,

Orissa.

Phone : O663 2401369

7. Association

WITH EVENTS

In History : Related with the history of the Chauhans of

Sambalpur.

In Rituals : Durga puja, Dhabalamukhi besa, Chaitra Mangala

bara, Nabarna, etc.

In Building Construction : To consolidate the unruly people and the wild region,

Balarama Deva adopted the tribal deity Samalai as

the tutelary deity and built a temple for the deity.

: Marriage ceremony is held here.

Any other (specify) :

WITH PERSONS

Patron : Originally the Chauhan rulers, but now under the

Endowment Department, Government of Orissa and

Orissa State Archaeology.

Architect / Engineer : ---

Any other (specify) : Samalesvari Trust Board

8. Statement of Significance

Architectural
Archaeological
Historical
Religious
Any other (specify)

Architectural

Historical
Religious.
On architectural

Architectural

Religious

On architectural

On architectural features and literary evidence, the temple can be dated to the last quarter of the 16th

century A.D. i.e. the early Chauhans in Sambalpur.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

• Context * Urban / Rural Setting :

* **Drawings** (Attach extra sheet if necessary): No Urban Setting

Stand in Isolation

Integral part of a Landscape /

Complex

Street / Complex :

Quantification

Surroundings

Area Dimension (L x H) : 31.55 mtrs X 14.60 mtrs X about 20 mtrs

(m / cm/ feet / inch)

Number of Blocks : Two, consists of a *vimana* and a pillared frontal *mandapa*.

Number of Storys : NA

Spatial Organization

Orientation : The temple is facing towards north but presently it is opened

from the eastern side for the devotees.

Plan : The *vimana* is square on plan and the *mandapa* is

rectangular on plan.

Allocation of Spaces : 63.90 mtrs X 61.50 mtrs in length and breadth respectively.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Ornamentation

Exteriors : Devoid of sculptural embellishment but the sikhara of the

temple is a remarkable piece of architecture. Its vertical segments adorned with miniature temple motifs and ascending successive lotus petal designs present an architectural grandeur. The *jangha* of the temple contains

numbers of parsvadevatas, such as Ramachandi,

Mahisasuramardini Durga, Mangala, Jvalamukhi Narasimhi, Bana-Durga, Varahi, Chinnamasta, Matangi,

Kali, Ugra Tara.

Interiors : ---Movable Collections : Nil.
* Any Other (specify) : ---

10. Construction Technology

Structural System : The temple is a mono-structural edifice containing the rekha

vimana surrounded by a pradaksina patha and a later added

Ashlar masonry with lime mortar. **Building Techniques** Stone and bricks are used for the structure. Now the floor of **Material of Construction** the temple is veneered with marble and the exterior walls are white washed. 11. Condition Assessment In General Good / Fair : Good Sign of Deterioration Serious Deterioration Danger of Disappearance In Brief (Attach extra sheet if necessary): The temple is in a good state of preservation, except the growth of lichen on the gandi. 12. Threats to the Property Natural Negligence Vandalism **Urban Pressures** Χ Х Х Х Х **SECTION III: REFERENCES** 13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details) P.K.Nayak, 2006, Temples of Western Orissa-Phase -II: Medieval Temples, in 1. S.Pradhan (ed.) Art and Archaeology of Orissa, Delhi. 2. R.P.Mohapatra, 1986, Archaeology in Orissa, Vol. –II, Delhi. B.K.Rath (ed.), 1996, The Forgotten Monuments of Orissa, Vol.3, New Delhi. 14. Photographs: 09 nos (attach list as in page 6, in case of multiple photographs) Photo Reference CAPTION 15. Audio / Video (related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.) Reference DESCRIPTION 16. Maps/Plans/Drawings 17. Listers NAME: Jaya Shankar Naik NAME: 18. Reviewers

NAME:

COMMENTS:

NAME:

COMMENTS

Dr. S. Pradhan

pillered mandapa of regional Chauhan style.