

Home (1917) Department.
Education

ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 357

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Conservation notes.-

Recording ————— on the Udayagiri Fort and
temples, Nellore district, submitted by the Superintendent,
Archaeological Survey.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

C.No. 1189 E. 4
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Received 191 . Registered 191



Subject.

Submitting copies of Inspection Notes on Udayagiri
Fort and Temples, Nellore District, for information.

ENCLOSURES
No. One
In duplicate.
Extra copies Nil.

No. 149

Station Madras, Dated the 10th March 1917

From (Name) A. H. Longhurst, Esq.,
(Designation) Superintendent,
Archaeological Survey,
Southern Circle, Madras.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
HOME (EDUCATION) Department.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 72, dated the 1st
February 1917, I have the honour to submit herewith in dupli-
cate copies of my Inspection Notes on Udayagiri Fort and Tem-
ples in the Nellore District dated the 15th February 1917 for the
information of Government.

2. Copies of the Notes in question have been forwarded to
the Director General of Archaeology, the Superintending Engi-
neer, Fifth Circle, and the Collector of Nellore District.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. H. Longhurst
Superintendent.

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INSPECTION NOTES ON UDAYAGIRI FORT AND TEMPLES,
NELLORE DISTRICT.

Fortifications.—Those portions of the fort walls, bastions and gateways which are still standing in fair order should be saved from further decay. This can best be done by the removal of dangerous vegetation between the joints of the masonry and making the tops of the walls and battlements watertight and proof against further growth of vegetation by plastering them with "rough plaster" toned down in colour so as not to appear obtrusively new. All rubbish and rank vegetation growing in front or around the gateways and bastions should be removed and the ground levelled and sloped to ensure proper drainage where possible. The small gateway on the southern side of the hill which has been repaired with dry stone-packing and iron girders should be plastered over in order to hide this new work. It is not necessary to use any patent scrub eradicator in removing the vegetation. The roots should be cut out to as great a depth as possible with a sharp chisel.

2. The pathways leading to the chief buildings in the fort, and the main path on the northern side of the hill which forms the chief approach to the fort from the plains below should be maintained in good order. If the Forest Department is unable to undertake this work it should be carried out by the Public Works Department as it is useless to preserve the fort as an "Ancient Monument" unless a proper approach to it is maintained by Government.

3. *The two Mosques.*—Repair the decayed plaster where necessary, with a view to excluding water and preventing the growth of vegetation. Clean and oil the stone inscriptions. Repair the arch, and broken cornice of the stepped tower of the larger mosque with new plaster in the manner described to the Public Works Department Overseer on the spot in January last. The interiors of the buildings are dirty and disfigured with the names of visitors to the fort. They should be cleaned and whitewashed, the latter toned to a light buff colour and not left a glaring white. The roofs should be inspected and repaired if necessary.

4. *Inscriptions.*—There are a few inscriptions carved on certain rocks in the fort. Rank vegetation growing in front of these should be removed. The two inscribed slabs set up at

the entrance to the compound of the Mission Bungalow on the hill should remain where they are.

5. *Ranganāyaka Temple*.—This building is situated at the west end of the village of Udayagiri and is at present a dumping ground for rubbish and serves as a public latrine. The following repairs are required.

6. *Eastern Gateway*.—Remove all signs of vegetation from the building and surrounding ground. Repair the roof with new concrete and plaster so as to keep the tops of the existing walls watertight. Grout and point all open cracks and large joints in the masonry with the same object in view. Excavate the ground all round down to the original plinth line of the buildings and provide drainage for same. Clean out the recesses in the entrance after all stone rubbish has been removed. When these repairs are finished, fix an ordinary strong iron gate at the spot shown on the plan supplied to the Public Works Department by this department. The gate should be kept locked and the key kept in the custody of the Tahsildar.

7. *Southern Gateway*.—Remove brick debris from the stone slab roof over the entrance. The teakwood lintels which originally supported the brickwork above the windows in the tower have been removed. The gaps in the walls thus made should be repaired with new brickwork where necessary, and in the manner explained to the Public Works Department Overseer on the spot. Patch plaster repairs are required to the roof over the tower where the crumbling brickwork has fallen with a view to preventing further decay. Clean out the entrance and provide drainage where necessary.

8. Remove all rank vegetation from the compound, ruined walls and buildings. Fill up holes in the ground, remove all loose stone and rubbish and make the whole compound clean and tidy.

9. Clean out all the buildings in the courtyards, level the floors and provide proper drainage. Repair with concrete and plaster the roof over the little shrine chamber on the eastern side of the inner enclosure, as this building contains historic inscriptions on its outer wall. Repair the floor and side walls and provide drainage.

10. Repair the outer enclosure wall where the old wall is missing. It should be constructed of rough stone in mortar with a strong cement coping and should be at least six feet in height so as to prevent the compound being used as a latrine.

11. The notice board should be repainted and removed to the northern side of the eastern

entrance so that it may be clearly seen from the road but not to obstruct the general view of the entrance as at present.

12. The two little mandapas outside the enclosure on the south-eastern side of the main gateway are the only two left which retain their brick towers above their flat stone roofs. The tops of these towers should be plastered and made watertight. The ruined pillared mandapa on the opposite side of the eastern entrance is too decayed to justify any attempt at repairing it beyond the removal of rank vegetation from the site.

13. There is no need to repair the ruined wall around the inner enclosure containing the main shrine. It will be sufficient if the outer wall alone is repaired.

14. *Krishna Temple*.—This building stands on a little hillock covered with cactus and rank vegetation at a distance of about a mile to the south-east of the village. On the south-eastern side of the temple is a masonry built tank, a ruined gopuram, or gateway and a handsome Kalyana Mandapa, or pillared hall. Originally, the latter were built as adjuncts to the former but were never completed.

15. Remove all cactus (by rooting up) and rank vegetation growing on the hillock on which the Krishna temple stands. Clear a space, at least twenty yards in width, all round the temple and level and slope the ground for drainage. Clean out the interior of the building down to the original floor level and provide drainage so that all rain water may escape through the main entrance on the north side. Replace the stone pedestal of the missing idol in the centre of the sanctum. Repair with new brickwork, both within and without, the ruined "stūpi" or tower over the sanctum so as to make the same watertight and free from further decay. When this work is finished patch plaster repairs are necessary to the domed top of the tower and the cornices of each tier of the tower. The crumbling stucco figures should be pointed with cement where necessary, to prevent further decay but no attempt should be made to restore missing portions of these figures. The object of the repairs is to preserve the tower as it is and not to restore it to its former shape; the ruined dome, however, will require to be partly rebuilt as a constructional necessity and the manner was explained to the Overseer on the spot in January last.

16. A large margosa tree has displaced one of the pillars supporting the flat stone roof over the small pillared hall or mandapa attached to the front of the shrine. It will be necessary to take down this pillar, the stone beams and

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slabs forming the roof above, and to reset them after the tree has been completely uprooted and removed. The greater part of this hall is now roofless but what does remain should be repaired with concrete and plaster after the pillar has been securely refixed in position and the beams and slabs replaced. These stones should be numbered before removal and a plan made of their correct positions for guidance during the repairs.

17. Clear the plinth line of the building all round and slope the ground to ensure proper drainage. The remains of a fallen mandapa on the west side of the temple should be exposed to view but not removed.

18. After the hillock has been cleared of all rank vegetation and the ground levelled and sloped where necessary, the site should be enclosed with a compound wall about four feet in height, similar in construction to that proposed above for the Ranganayaka temple and provided with a turnstile on the northern side. The larger the compound the better, as it should be remembered that this temple is the oldest and most interesting ancient monument at Udayagiri and in order to give the structure a good setting and to allow of plenty of space for photography, the enclosure around it should be sufficiently large for this purpose. The hillock is Government property and is waste land of no particular value, so there will be no extra expense in acquiring the site.

19. The large blocks of stone lying in front of the entrance into the temple should be turned over so as to expose the carved portions below. Four of these huge stones appear to have originally served as the four doorjambs of the recessed entrance into the temple.

They appear to have been pulled down and partly removed by villagers requiring stone for modern building purposes. If possible, these four stones and the lintels, should be securely refixed in their original position in the front entrance. This matter can only be decided when the carved surfaces of the stones in question are exposed to view. If they cannot be refixed, they should be neatly arranged on the ground on each side of the entrance so that visitors may see to what part of the building they originally belonged.

20. Loose broken bits of stone lying about the temple should be removed and used in constructing the compound wall.

21. Both the sanctum and the hall in front of it, require to be cleaned out and all loose stone removed. The ground inside should be excavated down to the original floor level and the bases of the pillars exposed to view. All

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drainage water should flow through the northern entrance and the floor of the interior should be sloped accordingly.

22. *Krishna Tank.*—This is a small well-built masonry tank containing a little four-pillared mandapa in its centre. It is situated at a distance of about fifty yards to the east of the Krishna temple and appears to have been built in connection with that temple. At present the outer retaining wall and stone steps are overgrown with cactus and all along the east side of the tank are mud fire-places, stones, pots and rubbish belonging to the local washermen who use this tank as a "dhobykhana". The whole site should be cleared of cactus and rank vegetation and all rubbish should be removed and the place left in a clean and tidy state and the washermen should not be allowed to use the tank. Reset the stone steps and the overflow exit where necessary.

23. *Large Gopuram.*—This is situated to the south of the tank. Remove all rank vegetation from the building and site. Remove fallen brick debris on the landings of the tower. Repair the crumbling brickwork of the top of the tower with patch plaster repairs so as to prevent further decay. Excavate the ground all round the building both within and without down to the original plinth level and provide proper drainage. Provide a strong iron gate for the entrance to be fixed in the position shown in the site plan supplied to the Public Works Department. It should be kept locked and the key in the custody of the Tahsildar.

24. Remove by uprooting, all cactus and rank vegetation growing in front of the gateway, along the side walls of the compound and within the enclosure. The ground in front of the entrance up to the ruined wall to the east should be cleared and levelled so as to form a proper approach to the gateway.

25. *Kalyana Mandapa.*—This handsome pillared hall stands within the old courtyard to which the large gopuram just mentioned affords access. Remove all signs of cactus and rank vegetation from the site. Clear away all loose stone from the building. Excavate the floor of the building down to the original plinth level and expose the raised platform it contains. The buildings should be enclosed by a compound wall in the manner shown on the plan supplied to the Public Works Department. The large blocks of stone representing roof slabs, caps, etc., that have fallen from the building should be neatly stacked with their carved portions exposed to view. The ruined verandah on the east side of the hall should be cleaned out and made tidy. Repair the

Home DEPARTMENT

conservation notes.

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Recording conservation notes

on the adyagiri Fort and temples,
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