

Home (19 19) Department.
(Education)

ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1394

DATED

15-11-19

[Despatch Abstract.]

Conservation Notes.-

Recording----- on ancient monuments in the North

Arcoo district.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

A.
B.
N.P.

(a)

G.O. No.

dated

DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY
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Receipt numbers

Number of date of
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ings.

Tabling Abstract.

Conservation Notes

*Recording to Ancient
monuments in the North West etc*

(b) Index Headings.

MAIN HEADING

CROSS REFERENCES.

SPECIAL INDEX.

DO NOT SPECIAL INDEX.

(a) and (b) not to be filled in for 'Routine' Series.

DEPARTMENT.

Received



Registered

Subject.

Submitting printed copies of the Inspection Notes on Ancient Monuments in the North Arcot District dated the 1st September 1919.

ENCLOSURES
No. <u>one</u> in duplicate
State copies

No. 684.

Station Madras, Dated the 23th October 1919

From (Name) A. H. Longhurst, Esq.,

(Designation) Superintendent, Archaeological Survey Department, Southern Circle.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home Education Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith in duplicate copies of my Inspection Notes on Ancient Monuments in the North Arcot District dated the 1st September 1919.

Proof
2. Copies of the notes in question have been forwarded to the Director General of Archaeology, Superintending Engineer VII circle and the Collector of North Arcot District for information.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

A. H. Longhurst,
Superintendent.

2

4

INSPECTION NOTES ON ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN THE NORTH
ARCOT DISTRICT.

1. *Sholavaram*.—This village, formerly called Solapuram, is situated 8 miles south of Vellore in the Vellore taluk and contains two ancient temples of Pallava origin, one dedicated to Siva and the other to Vishnu. The inscriptions found on the mouldings running along the basements of these two temples show that they were both built by the Pallava king Kampavikramavarman in the ninth century A.D.

2. The Vishnu temple is a private monument still in use as a place of worship and is in good repair and no subvention by Government is necessary.

3. The Siva temple belongs to Government and is in ruins. In 1906, the temple was included in the Standard List of Ancient Monuments (G.O. No. 121, Public, dated 17th February 1906) and certain repairs were carried out at Government expense. The compound was cleared of rank vegetation and the area enclosed by a brick wall. Since then the villagers have made an attempt to use the temple as a place of worship by putting up a tiled roof over the shrine chamber which still contains the original linga and fixing a wooden door to the entrance of the shrine. The temple is built of large blocks of granite well cut and dressed and contains a small square shrine chamber with a pillared hall or mandapa attached to the front of it. The roof over the shrine chamber has fallen and only the basement of the mandapa now remains. In the compound are a number of interesting old images, capitals and bases of broken pillars and a few large stones bearing inscriptions which once formed part of the basement of the building. It is quite impossible to reconstruct the entire building, but the interior walls of the shrine chamber are still standing and it would be a simple matter to rebuild this portion and cover the shrine with a flat terraced roof. Most of the stones required for the work are available on the spot and only require sorting out and replacing. Over the shrine doorway is a carved cornice stone and this should be taken as a guide as to the height the walls should be carried up and restored. A flat terraced roof supported on iron girders can then be constructed over the top as a covering for the interior of the shrine chamber.

The repairs to the roof may stand over pending the approval of the Director-General of Archaeology.

A.H.L.

4. When the shrine has been repaired the basement of the building including the roofless mandapa attached to the front of it

should be excavated down to the original plinth line or ground level so as to expose the mouldings of the basement as it is obvious that this portion of the structure contains a number of inscriptions that have not yet been copied. The basement should be repaired where necessary with new blocks of stone if the original old blocks cannot be found in the debris which now covers the site. The basement should be brought to a uniform height all round and any paving slabs or bases of pillars found on top should be carefully preserved in their original positions, so as to indicate the plan of the mandapa. The broken cross beams and roof slabs should be neatly stacked on one side if the stone is not required in carrying the repairs proposed above. The carved stones, those which originally formed part of the cornice, engaged pillars and pilasters or mouldings of the basement should be replaced in their original positions so far as this is possible. The sculptures and other carved stones should all be collected in one group and when the repairs are finished I will visit the temple and decide what steps are necessary to preserve these and where they should be placed. Outside the compound there is a broken base of a lion pillar and an inscribed slab stuck up in a field opposite to the temple. These should be removed within the temple enclosure. In 1906, there were also three other inscribed slabs lying under some trees opposite to the temple. If these can be found, they should also be placed within the compound as the inscriptions on them show that they belong to this temple.

5. The little brick and plaster shrine containing a black-basalt fluted linga, standing under a very ancient tree in the compound, should be saved from further decay. The floor should be repaved and the masonry replastered where necessary. The little tower over the front gateway of the compound requires patch plaster repairs in order to make the same watertight.

6. The well should be cleaned out and repaired and the ground within and without the compound cleared and levelled so as to ensure proper drainage and prevent water collecting along the base of the compound wall. No door is required for the temple itself, but a wooden door should be fixed to the gateway of the compound.

7. A notice-board should be fixed on one side of the outer gateway informing the public that the temple is a conserved ancient monument and the property of the Government.

8. *Virinjipuram*.—The Margasahasvara temple in this village is situated at a distance of three miles from Virinjipuram railway station

on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. It is a large temple and contains two handsome mandapas which are similar in style to the famous one in the Jalakanteswara temple in the Vellore Fort. The main temple is enclosed with walls and Europeans are not permitted to enter inside. The inscriptions belonging to this temple were copied by Dr. Hultzsch in 1887 and recorded as items Nos. 44 to 61 in his report for that year and published in South Indian Inscriptions, Volume I, page 82.

9. The temple is in a good state of repair. The stone beams supporting the brick towers over two of the large gateways are cracked but they do not appear to be in any danger at present and no repairs are necessary. In some places the stonework of these gateways has weathered badly and is split and cracked owing to settlement. These cracks should be pointed with good sound cement. In order to prevent further settlement, the ground all round these gateways should be sloped to ensure proper drainage. This is an urgent work and should be completed before the next rainy season and may be carried out at Government expense if no funds are forthcoming from the trustees.

10. *Veppambattu*.—This village is within two miles of Kaniyambadi railway station and about eight miles from Vellore. It contains an old ruined Siva temple of the Vijayanagar period. It is private property and now a mere ruin. Architecturally it is of no particular interest but it contains a few historical inscriptions of some of the Vijayanagar kings which have been copied and published in Volume I of South Indian Inscriptions, pages 80 and 131, and Assistant Archæological Superintendent's Report for 1887, pages 2 and 6. The inscriptions are in good order and therefore no repairs are necessary at Government expense.

11. *Nelvoy*.—The Rama temple at Nelvoy is private property but has been repaired at Government expense in the past on account of its inscriptions and because the trustees were unable to carry out the repairs at their own cost. Architecturally, the temple is of no interest, and as the inscriptions are in good order no repairs are required at present.

MADRAS,
1st September 1919. A. H. LONGHURST,
Superintendent,
Archæological Survey, S.C.

~~Home~~ DEPARTMENT.
(Edm)

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191

" " " " "

191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 2123 From the Suplt. Mach. No. 686, dated 28. 10. 1918

" " " "" "

191

" " " " " " 191

Memo. 2123B-1, No. 1, dated 3-11-191

The Supdt., Arch.
Survey, is requested to
report definitely whether
the conservation notes on
ancient monuments in the
North West Ind., subd.
with his letter read above,
purport to be a press
copy or the final copy itself.

The letters in paras 2 of the letter that copies of the notes were forwarded to the D. G. of Archaeology & the other officers etc

And if the latter whether
proof copy thereof was sent
to the D.C. for preliminary
approval as required
by Standing Rules.

not clear of the point.

21.10.19
21.11.19

3/11/19

To the Supdt. Arch.
Sumner

Remained after
three weeks

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B

DEPARTMENT.

2272 B
8/11/19

Received



Registered

Subject.

Informing that the final copies of the Inspection notes on the Ancient Monuments in the North Arcot District dated 1st September 1919, sent to Government were already approved by the Director General of Archaeology, in proof form.

ENCLOSURES
No. Nil.
State copies

No. 716.

Station Madras, Dated the 7th November 1919.

From (Name) A.H. Longhurst Esq.

(Designation) Superintendent, Archaeological

Survey Department,

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Home Education

Department.

Madras,

Sir,

With reference to Home Education Department Memorandum NO. 2125 B-1 dated the 3rd November 1919, I have the honour to state that the copy of Inspection notes on Ancient Monuments in the North Arcot District dated the 1st September 1919, sent to Government is the final copy, which was sent to and approved by the Director General of Archaeology, in proof form, before the final copies were struck off.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A.H. Longhurst.
Superintendent.

(Sed. m.)

(ch.²¹)
Revisiting ~~at~~ an ancient monument
in the North Forest dist.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, dated _____ 191_____

191

READ ALSO:—

READ ALSO:-
C. No. 2123 From the Supdt. Genl. No. 684, dated 28. 6. 1919

2272/1 716 2. 11. 1918

ORDER.

No. 1394, dated 15.11. 191

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Recorded

10.11.19
F. K.
mmg

OK
(2.11.9)
my
14/11/14

To the Supdt., ¹⁷⁹¹ ~~Amherst~~
 Copy to the P.W.D. ^{Sumner} ~~1791~~
 (go with a
 copy of inspection
 notes.)

(512)

when submitted

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

19

REAP AGAIN G.O. No. 19

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LETTO.

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