



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Janpath, New Delhi -110 001, www.ignca.gov.in

Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR / PRI - 50

SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Sun Temple, Konark, Dist. - Puri
 Past : ---
 Other Name (if any): : ---

2. Location

LONGITUDE 86° 05' 37" E **LATITUDE** 19° 53' 15" N **ELEVATION** 16^{ft}

Address : **Village (village code)** Konark
Post : Konark **Via**: Konark
Tehsil: Konark **District**: Puri
State : Orissa **PIN**: 75 2111

Approach : The Sun temple is situated in the town of Konark, which is about 4 kms away from the sea shore or Chandrabhaga coast. It is about 60 kms from Bhubaneswar and 40 kms from Puri.

3. Property Type

Buildings

<input type="checkbox"/>	Palace
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fort
<input type="checkbox"/>	Citadel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Railway station
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defence building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other public buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential building

Engineering structure

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tunnel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other engineering structure

Religious structures

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temple
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mosque
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Church
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monastery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stupa
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomb, Mausoleum

Open space and related structures

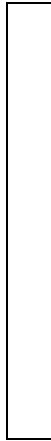
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public square
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park or garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graveyard
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baolis, Well
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tank

Other Structures

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wall
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gateway
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pillar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others (specify)

Note

The Sun temple situated within a spacious courtyard consists of a *rekha vimana*, *pidha jagamohana* and a *natamandapa* of mature Kalinga order. The vimana



Cave

Kalingan order. The *vimana* and the *jagamohana* in the same axial alignment forming the component part of one architectural scheme are designed in the form of a grand chariot to represent the mythological chariot of the Sun god. The *natamandira* is a detached structure a few metres away to the east of the *jagamohana*.

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE : Abandoned

Present : Abandoned but now a point of tourist destination.
Past : Worshipped.

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD : Ganga rule
YEARS : 13th century A.D.
Precise date of Construction : 1248-1264 A.D.
Completion : ---
Subsequent changes : Renovated and conserved by Archaeological Survey of India.
Destruction / Demolition : Presently the superstructure of the *jagamohana* and the *natamandira* are missing.

6. Ownership / Level of Protection

SINGLE / MULTIPLE : Single

Public : Archaeological Survey of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other (Please specify) : Protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India
Private : ---
Any other (Please specify) : ---
Name : ---
Address : Archaeological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar Circle, 153, VIP Area, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
Pin - 751015
Phone : 0674-2558170

7. Association

• WITH EVENTS

In History : Associated with Bengal expedition of king Narasimhadeva - I, as scholar believed it as a war memorial.
In Rituals : The temple was associated with rituals like Samba

dasami, the worship of Sun god as known from the religious literature.

In Building Construction : ---

Any other (specify) : It is the only monument of eastern India to be declared as World Heritage Monument by UNESCO.

• **WITH PERSONS**

Patron : Originally the Gangas, but presently under the care of Archaeological Survey of India.

Architect / Engineer : ---

Any other (specify) : ---

8. Statement of Significance

<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural	✓ Architectural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological	✓ Archaeological
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical	✓ Historical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other (specify)	: On the basis of architectural features, iconographical details and the information revealed by the inscription of Narasimhadeva - II, the temple can be assigned to the Ganga monarch Narasimhadeva - I i.e. 1248 to 1264 A.D.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

• **Context** * **Drawings** (Attach extra sheet if necessary) No

Urban / Rural Setting : Urban setting

Surroundings Stand in Isolation

Integral part of a Landscape / Complex

Street / Complex :

• **Quantification**

Area Dimension (L x B x H) : 97.53 mtrs x 70.10 mtrs x 40. 00 mtrs (existing height)
(m / cm/ feet / inch)

Number of Blocks : Three

Number of Storys : No

• **Spatial Organization**

Orientation : The temple is facing towards east.

Plan : All the components of the temple are square on plan.

Allocation of Spaces : 261.00 mtrs x 164.00 mtrs in length and width respectively.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

• **Ornamentation**

Exteriors : The temple itself is a piece of decoration was designed like a chariot with twenty four wheels, drawn by seven horses. The temple is standing over a high platform (*pista*), which again is provided with a low *upana*. The vertical face of the *upana* is richly carved with war

procession consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephants; palanquin, umbrella bearer, men and animal carrying supplies; hunting scenes, royal, and other sculptural motifs. The temple wall is decorated with as usual architectural motifs like *pidhamundis*, *khakharamundis* and *vajramundis* and sculptural motifs like *nayikas*, musician, *vidalas*, teaching scenes, royal figures and divinities. The sun temple is known for its erotics sculptures, which are depicted in various poses through out the temple in rich number. The *parsvadevata* niches of the temple are housed with three beautiful images of Sun god.

- Interiors : Presently the interior is inaccessible because of conservation work done in 1903. However, R.L. Mitra who visited the place at the close of 1868 writes that a plain moulding formed of a cyma and a tile runs all around the room at a height of 5^{ft} from the floor and that is only decoration which has been attempted for the interior. The ceiling was supported on four square pillars which had divided the area of the room into a nave and aisles.
- Movable Collections : Independent animal figures like elephant, horses, *gaja-kranta*, *navagraha* panel and temple architectural members etc.
- * Any Other (specify) : The temple is *pancharatha* on plan and *panchangabada* in elevation. Three subsidiary temples (*Nisa deulas*) close to the *parsvadevata* niches were constructed on the north, west and south sides of the main temple.

10. Construction Technology

- Structural System : *Rekha vimana* and *pidha jagamohana* of mature *Kalingan* order.
- Building Techniques : Ashlar dry masonry
- Material of Construction : Khandolite stone is used for the construction of the temple whereas green chlorite stone is used for the doorjambs and the *parsvadevata* images.

11. Condition Assessment

In General Good / Fair : Good

- ☒ Sign of Deterioration
☐ Serious Deterioration
☐ Danger of Disappearance

In Brief (Attach extra sheet if necessary):

Except a few defaced images, the temple is in a good state of preservation as it has been repaired and conserved by Archaeological Survey of India from time to time.

12. Threats to the Property

- ☒ Natural

<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vandalism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Pressures

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SECTION III: REFERENCES

13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details)

1. R.L, Mitra, 1875-1880, *Antiquities of Orissa*, 2 Vols., Calcutta.
2. B. Swarup, 1910, *Konark, The Black Pagoda*, Cuttack
3. M.M.Ganguly, 1912, *Orissa and Her Remains- Ancient and Medieval*, Calcutta.
4. Debala Mitra, 1968, *Konark*, New Delhi.
5. T.E. Donaldson, 1986, *Hindu Temple Art of Orissa*, Vol. II, Leiden.
6. K.S Behera, 1995, *Konark : The Heritage of Mankind (Religion, History and Architecture)*, Vol. - I & II, New Delhi.

14. Photographs: 154 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 : B.B .Satpathy NAME :

18.Reviewers

NAME : Dr. S. Pradhan NAME :
COMMENTS COMMENTS :