



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR/JPR- 14

SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Viraja Temple, Jajpur Town, Dist. – Jajpur
Past : ---
Other Name (if any): : ---

2. Location

LONGITUDE 86° 20' 17" E **LATITUDE** 20° 50' 01" N **ELEVATION** 35 ft

Address : **Village (village code)** Devidwar (Jajpur Town)
Post : Devidwar **Via**: Devidwar
Tehsil: Jajpur Town **District**: Jajpur
State : Orissa **PIN**: 755007

Approach : The temple is located at Devidwar at a distance of 2.5 kms from Jajpur town bus stand and situated on the left side of Jajpur-Binjharpur road.

3. Property Type

Buildings

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

Religious structures

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

Other Structures

- Wall
- Gateway
- Pillar
- Others (specify)

Engineering structure

- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Other engineering structure

Open space and related structures

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

Note:

The temple has a *rekha vimana* and *pidha jagamohana* of *Kalingan* order built in the 19th century. However, the presiding deity, on the basis of its iconographical features can be dated to the Gupta period.

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE : In use

- Present** : Living temple, the presiding deity is a two-armed Mahisasuramardini Durga, locally known as Viraja. The goddess stands piercing the trident in the body of the buffalo demon by her right hand and holding the tail with her left hand. She tramples the demon with her left leg and stands majestically in a *pratyaldha* pose. The mount lion is conspicuous by its absence.
- Past** : Worshipped

5. Age (Source)

- PERIOD** : The presiding deity belongs to the Gupta period.
YEARS : 5th century AD
Precise date of Construction Completion : ---
Subsequent changes : The present temple was built by late Choudhury Sudarsana Mohapatra in the 19th century.
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 and under Endowment Department, Government of Orissa.
- Private** : ---
- Any other (Please specify) Name** : Maa Viraja Temple Trust Board
- Address** : Orissa State Archaeology, Paryatan Bhawan, B.J.B. Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
- Phone** : 0674- 2432147

7. Association

• **WITH EVENTS**

- In History** : ---
- In Rituals** : *Durgapuja, Sunian, Ratha Yatra, Kumara Purnima, Dipavali, Dola Purnima, Triveni Amavasya*, etc are observed here.
- In Building Construction** : ---
- Any other (specify)** : Marriages, thread ceremonies, engagements, etc are performed here.

• **WITH PERSONS**

- Patron** : Endowment Department, Government of Orissa and Orissa State Archaeology.
- Architect / Engineer** : ---
- Any other (specify)** : Maa Viraja Temple Trust Board.

8. Statement of Significance

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Architectural | : | ✓ | Architectural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological | : | ✓ | Archaeological |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Historical | : | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious | : | ✓ | Religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other (specify) | : | | The present temple was rebuilt in the 19 th century but on the |

basis of iconographical features, the presiding deity can be dated to the Gupta period i.e. about 5th century A.D. whereas the other detached sculptures found here can be dated to the 8th/9th century A.D.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Drawings (Attach extra sheet if necessary) No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban / Rural Setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand in Isolation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral part of a Landscape Complex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Dimension (L x B x H) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Street / Complex :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22.75 mtrs x 10.80 mtrs x 21.15 mtrs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Storys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (m / cm/ feet / inch)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facing towards east.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consists of a square <i>vimana</i> and a <i>jagamohana</i> having an <i>antarala</i> in between them. The <i>vimana</i> and <i>antarala</i> stand over a low platform. The temple is enclosed by a compound wall pierced by gateways on four sides with the main entrance (<i>Simhadwara</i>) on the east.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50.00 mtrs (L) x 50.00 mtrs (W)

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ornamentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exteriors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interiors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>vimana</i> is decorated with a series of four projecting lion on each <i>raha</i>, <i>deulacharinis</i> and <i>dopichhasimhas</i> over the <i>beki</i> to support the <i>amlasila</i> of both the <i>vimana</i> and <i>jagamohana</i>. Sculptures of earlier period like- <i>nayikas</i>, <i>gaja-vidala</i>, amrous couple, Mahisasuramardini Durga, etc are fixed on the plain <i>bada</i> of the <i>jagamohana</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movable Collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Any Other (specify) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several images of earlier period affixed either to the compound wall or the walls of subsidiary structures or simply kept inside are Ardhanarisvara, Lakulisa, Uma-Mahesvara, Matrikas, <i>Nayika</i> images, Siva, miniature temple, hero stone, Mahisasuramardini Durga etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Any Other (specify) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The temple is <i>pancharatha</i> on plan and the <i>bada</i> has six vertical segments in elevation. The <i>jagamohana</i> has six internal pillars. The <i>nisha</i> shrines are built over the <i>parsvadevata</i> niches.

10. Construction Technology

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> : <i>Rekha vimana</i> and <i>pidha jagamohana</i> of <i>Kalingan</i> order.
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Building Techniques : Ashlar masonry with lime mortar.
Material of Construction : Khandolite blocks are used both for the temple construction and the compound wall. Now the entire temple is thickly plastered and 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.

12. Threats to the Property

- Natural
- Negligence
- Vandalism
- Urban Pressures

X X

SECTION III: REFERENCES

13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details)

1. R.P. Mohapatra, 1986, *Archaeology in Orissa*, Vol. - II, New Delhi.
2. A. N. Parida, 2005, Brahmanical Temples, In G. Mohanty et al. (eds.) *Cultural Heritage of Jajpur*, Bhubaneswar.

14. Photographs: 83 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 : Dr. S. Pradhan **NAME :**
COMMENTS **COMMENTS :**