



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/CTC- 67

SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Sobhanesvar Siva Temple, Niali, Dist. - Cuttack
Past : ---
Other Name (if any): : ---

2. Location

LONGITUDE 86° 03' 15" E **LATITUDE** 20° 08' 16" N **ELEVATION** 57 feet

Address : **Village (village code)** Niali
Post : Niali **Via**: Niali
Tehsil: Cuttack **District**: Cuttack
State : Orissa **PIN**: 754004

Approach : The temple is located on left bank of the river Prachi, a distributary of the river Mahanadi and on the south-western side of Niali. It is at a distance of 400 yards, from the Niali-Madhava Road (S.H.No.60).

3. Property Type

- Buildings**
- Palace
 - Fort
 - Citadel
 - Government building
 - Railway station
 - Defence building
 - Industrial building
 - Other public buildings
 - Residential building

- Engineering structure**
- Bridge
 - Tunnel
 - Other engineering structure

- Religious structures**
- Temple
 - Mosque
 - Minar
 - Church
 - Monastery
 - Stupa
 - Tomb, Mausoleum

- Open space and related structures**
- Public square
 - Park or garden
 - Graveyard
 - Baolis, Well
 - Tank
 - Cave

- Other Structures**
- Wall
 - Gateway
 - Pillar
 - Others (specify)

Note:

Rekha vimana and *pidha jagamohana* of *Kalingan* order. It stands on a low platform. Originally the temple had a *vimana*, *jagamohana* and *nata-mandira* as evident from the remnants. *Nisha-shrines* were added in front of the *parsvadevata niches* later on.

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE : In use

Present : It is a living temple, enshrining a Sivalinga within a circular *yonipitha*.
Past : Worshipped

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD : Ganga rule
YEARS : Closing years of the 12th century A.D. possibly during the reign of Anangabhima Deva-II (A.D. 1190-98).
Precise date of Construction : ---
Completion : ---
Subsequent changes : The temple is a renovated one as evident from above The *bada* portion.
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.
Private : ---
Any other (Please specify) : Sobhanesvar Temple Trust Board, Niali
Name :
Address : Orissa State Archaeology, Paryatan Bhawan, B.J.B. Nagar, Bhubaneswsa, Orissa
Phone : 0674- 2432147

7. Association

• **WITH EVENTS**

In History : ---
In Rituals : *Sivaratri* and other ceremonies related to lord Siva.
In Building Construction : ---
Any other (specify) : Marriage and thread ceremony are performed here.

• **WITH PERSONS**

Patron : Originally, the Gangas, followed by the Nagavamsi king Vaidyanatha but now under the Orissa State Archaeology.
Architect / Engineer : ---
Any other (specify) : ---

8. Statement of Significance

<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural	✓	Architectural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical	✓	Historical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	✓	Religious
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other (specify)	:	

The architectural and sculptural features assign the temple to the 12th century A.D. However, an inscription on the eastern wall of the *jagamohana* records that the temple was built by a Nagavamsi king named Vaidyanatha, most likely a vassal of the Ganga rulers and he possibly renovated/ repaired or maintained the temple after the fall of the Gangas.

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 : Rural setting Surroundings : Stand in isolation Complex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral part of a landscape / Street / Complex :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Dimension (L x B x H) : 48.00 mtrs x 15.45 mtrs x 16.00 mtrs (m / cm/ feet / inch) Number of Blocks : Presently two blocks, such as <i>vimana</i> and <i>jagamohana</i> but originally <i>nandimandapa</i> and <i>muktimandapa</i> were also there. Number of Storys : ---
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation : The temple is facing towards east. Plan : Both <i>vimana</i> and <i>jagamohana</i> are square on plan that stands over a platform of 1.65 mtrs high. Allocation of Spaces : 55.60 mtrs x 33.00 mtrs in length and breadth respectively.
<u>ARCHITECTURAL STYLE</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ornamentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exteriors : The temple is decorated with architectural designs like <i>chaitya</i> medallion, <i>vajramundi</i>, <i>naga-nagi</i> pilasters, lattice window etc, sculptural motifs such as divinity like <i>Astadikpalas</i>, Chamunda, Jaina Tirthankara, Ganesa; <i>nayikas</i> (<i>Salabhanjika</i>, <i>Darpana</i>, <i>Alaskanya</i>, Chamara bearer), lingapuja scene, <i>sikshyadana</i>, royal court scene and domestic scenes like women fondling child, nourishing child, women carrying vanity bag, couples, erotics etc and <i>jagrata</i> motifs on the <i>ganthiala</i>, <i>gaja-vidala</i> and <i>nara-vidala</i> on the conjunction of the <i>paga</i> of the outer walls. Interiors : Plain Movable Collections : Number of sculptures like Visnu (08 nos.), Varaha (01no.) and Yama (01 no.) are now housed in a sculpture shed next to the temple, constructed by the State Archaeology in 1971-72.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Any Other (specify) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> : The temple has an abbreviated <i>navaratha</i> on plan and <i>panchangabada</i> in elevation.

10. Construction Technology

Structural System : *Rekha vimana, pidha jagamohana* with pillared Nandi *mandapa* and *muktimandapa*.
Building Techniques : Ashlar masonry.
Material of Construction : The temple is made of sandstone while the compound wall is made of laterite.

11. Condition Assessment

In General **Good / Fair** : Fair

- Sign of Deterioration
 Serious Deterioration
 Danger of Disappearance

In Brief (Attach extra sheet if necessary):

The temple is maintained by Orissa State Archaeology. The natural agencies like wind, water and growth of vegetation affect the temple, which eroded the decorative elements of the temple.

12. Threats to the Property

- Natural
 Negligence
 Vandalism
 Urban Pressures

x x

SECTION III: REFERENCES

13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details)

1. T. E. Donaldson, 1985, *Hindu Temple Art of Orissa*, Vol. I, Leiden.
2. R. P. Mohapatra, 1986, *Archaeology in Orissa*, Vol. II, New Delhi.

14. Photographs: 39

(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 : D. B. Garnayak
18.Reviewers

NAME :

NAME : Dr. S. Pradhan
COMMENTS

NAME :
COMMENTS :