



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/SBP- 10

SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Samalesvari Temple, Sambalpur Town,
Dist. - Sambalpur
Past : ---
Other Name (if any): : Samalai Gudi

2. Location

LONGITUDE 83° 57' 32" E **LATITUDE** 21° 28' 26" N **ELEVATION** 508 ft.

Address : **Village (village code)** Bada Bazar
Post : Bada Bazar **Via**: Sambalpur Town
Tehsil:Sambalpur Town **District**: Sambalpur
State : Orissa **PIN**: 768003

Approach : The temple, on the left bank of the river Mahanadi is located on the left side of the road leading from Kunjelpada to Bada Bazar. It is about 3 kms from Sambalpur Railway Station.

3. Property Type

Buildings

<input type="checkbox"/>	Palace
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fort
<input type="checkbox"/>	Citadel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government 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

<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

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

Other Structures

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

Note:

The temple is a mono-structural edifice, containing the *vimana* surrounded by a *pradakhina patha* and a later added frontal pillared *mandapa* . It has a curvilinear super structure of regional Chauhan style..

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE : In use

- Present** : It is a living temple and the presiding deity hardly conforms to any anthropomorphic iconic form. It is a huge block of stone having a convex front. In the middle a raised ridge-like elevation is regarded as the nose of the deity. The lower portion of the slab has a downward extension, which is considered as the mouth of the goddess. There is a small adjunct below the groove, which represents the chin. When properly clothed and bedecked with ornaments, it gives the look of a face of a female.
- Past** : Worshipped

5. Age (Source)

- PERIOD** : Chauhan rule of Sambalpur State.
YEARS : 16th century A.D.
Precise date of Construction : Built by the founder Chauhan ruler Balarama Deva (1575 -1595 A.D.)
Completion : ---
Subsequent changes : The present temple was rebuilt by the 7th Chauhan king Chhatra Sai (1690 -1725 A.D.)
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 the Endowment Department, Government of Orissa.
- Private** :
Any other (Please specify) : Samalesvari Trust Board
Name :
Address : AT/P.O.- Bada Bazar , Dist.- Sambalpur, Pin -768003, Orissa.
Phone : O663 2401369

7. Association

• **WITH EVENTS**

- In History** : Related with the history of the Chauhans of Sambalpur.
- In Rituals** : *Durga puja, Dhabalamukhi besa, Chaitra Mangala bara, Nabarna, etc.*
- In Building Construction** : To consolidate the unruly people and the wild region, Balarama Deva adopted the tribal deity Samalai as the tutelary deity and built a temple for the deity.
- Any other (specify)** : Marriage ceremony is held here.

• **WITH PERSONS**

- Patron** : Originally the Chauhan rulers, but now under the Endowment Department, Government of Orissa and

Orissa State Archaeology.
Architect / Engineer : ---
Any other (specify) : Samalesvari Trust Board

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)	:	On architectural features and literary evidence, the temple can be dated to the last quarter of the 16 th century A.D. i.e. the early Chauhans in Sambalpur.

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 	Urban Setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand in Isolation Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex : Complex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantification 	
Area Dimension (L x H)	31.55 mtrs X 14.60 mtrs X about 20 mtrs (m / cm/ feet / inch)
Number of Blocks	Two, consists of a <i>vimana</i> and a pillared frontal <i>mandapa</i> .
Number of Storeys	NA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial Organization 	
Orientation	The temple is facing towards north but presently it is opened from the eastern side for the devotees.
Plan	The <i>vimana</i> is square on plan and the <i>mandapa</i> is rectangular on plan.
Allocation of Spaces	63.90 mtrs X 61.50 mtrs in length and breadth respectively.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ornamentation 	
Exteriors	Devoid of sculptural embellishment but the <i>sikhara</i> of the temple is a remarkable piece of architecture. Its vertical segments adorned with miniature temple motifs and ascending successive lotus petal designs present an architectural grandeur. The <i>jangha</i> of the temple contains numbers of <i>parvadevatas</i> , such as Ramachandi, Mahisasuramardini Durga, Mangala, Jvalamukhi Narasimhi, Bana-Durga, Varahi, Chinnamasta, Matangi, Kali, Ugra Tara.
Interiors	---
Movable Collections	Nil.
* Any Other (specify)	---

10. Construction Technology

Structural System	The temple is a mono-structural edifice containing the <i>rekha vimana</i> surrounded by a <i>pradaksina patha</i> and a later added
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