



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- 11

SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

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

2. Location

LONGITUDE 83° 57' 54" E **LATITUDE** 21° 28' 07" N **ELEVATION** 480 feet

Address : **Village (village code)** Balibandha
Post : Jharuapara **Via:** Sambalpur Town
Tehsil Sambalpur Town **District:** Sambalpur
State : Orissa **PIN:** 768001

Approach : The temple, on the left bank of the river Mahanadi is situated on the left side of the road leading from Kunjelpada to Samalesvsari temple. It is about 2 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 has a *rekha vimana*, *jagamohana* and a pillared *mandapa*. A detach pillar is found in front of the temple.

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE : In use

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

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD : Chauhan rule of Sambalpur state.
YEARS : 17th century A.D.
Precise date of Construction : Built by the 3rd Chauhan ruler Balabhadra Deva (1605 to 1630 A.D.)
Completion : ---
Subsequent changes : Entire temple was plastered and white washed at a later stage.
Destruction / Demolition : ---

6. Ownership / Level of Protection

SINGLE / MULTIPLE : Multiple

Public : Archaeological Survey of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other (Please specify) : Endowment Department, Government of Orissa.
Private :
Any other (Please specify) : Somanath Baba Trust Board under the presidentship of Dhiresvar Sarangi.
Name : ---
Address : AT-Balibandha, P.O.-Jharuapara,, Dist.-Sambalpur, Pin -768001,Orissa.
Phone : ---

7. Association

• **WITH EVENTS**

In History : Related with the history of Raja Balabhadradeva (1605-1630 A.D.), the third Chauhan ruler of Sambalpur state.
In Rituals : *Sivaratri, Kartika Purnima, Sitalasasthi*, etc. are observed here.
In Building Construction : ---
Any other (specify) : Marriage, thread ceremony, etc.

• **WITH PERSONS**

Patron : Originally by the Chauhan rulers of Sambalpur, but presently by the Endowment Department, Government of Orissa.
Architect / Engineer : ---
Any other (specify) : Somanath Baba Trust Board

8. Statement of Significance

Architectural
 Archaeological

Architectural

- Historical
 Religious
 Any other (specify)

✓ Historical

: On architectural features and literary evidence, the temple can be dated to the first quarter of the 17th century A.D. i.e. the rule of Chauhans in Sambalpur state.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

- **Context**
Urban / Rural Setting : *** Drawings** (Attach extra sheet if necessary): No
Surroundings : Urban Setting
- **Quantification**
Area Dimension (L x H) : 16.20 mtrs X 5.20 mtrs X10.00 mtrs (approximate height)
(m / cm/ feet / inch)
Number of Blocks : Three, consists of a *vimana*, *jagamohana* and a pillared *mandapa*.
Number of Storys : N.A.
- **Spatial Organization**
Orientation : The temple is facing towards east.
Plan : The *vimana* and *jagamohana* are square on plan that stands over a platform of 0.80 mtrs high.
Allocation of Spaces : 30.00 mtrs X 25.00 mtrs in length and breadth respectively.

Stand in Isolation
Integral part of a Street
Landscape / Street /
Complex :

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

- **Ornamentation**
Exteriors : Devoid of any decoration except the *parsvadevata* niches.
Interiors : Plain.
Movable Collections : Sculptures of an erotic figure and Mahisasuramardini Durga are found in the temple premise.
- * **Any Other** (specify) : The temple is *pancharatha* on plan.

10. Construction Technology

- Structural System** : Both the *vimana* and *jagamohana* are built in *rekha* order of Chauhan style of architecture.
- Building Techniques** : Ashlar masonry with lime mortar.
- Material of Construction** : Stone and lime mortar are used for the construction of the temple and the entire temple is plastered and lime washed.

11. Condition Assessment

In General

Good / Fair : Good

- Sign of Deterioration
 Serious Deterioration
 Danger of Disappearance

