

GANGA CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION

2021

Final Report on Architectural Heritage Documentation of Purba Medinipur, W.B.



The Designers

539A Block –N, New Alipore, Kolkata 700053

3/26/2021



GANGA CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION

Chronicling the Ganga – from Source to Mouth



Architectural Heritage Documentation

WEST BENGAL

110 KM

Final Report- Phase II (ii)

March- 2021



INTACH



Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Background.....	2
1.2 Scope of Work (Architectural Heritage Documentation).....	2
1.3 Key Aspects.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1.4 Historical Background of the District	4
1.5 River Ganga through Purba Medinipur District	6
1.6 Identification of Sites	7
MAHISHADAL BLOCK	11
Serial No.-01 SRI SRI MADAN GOPAL JEW TEMPLE COMPLEX, MAHISHADAL.....	12
Serial No-02 PHULBAAG PALACE (MAHISHADAL NEW RAJBARI)	18
Serial No-03 RANGIBASAN PALACE (MAHISHADAL OLD RAJBARI).....	24
Serial No-04 JAL BUNGALOW, MAHISHADAL RAJBARI PRECINCT.....	30
SUTAHATA BLOCK	33
Serial No.-05 Muktidham, Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Chaitanyapur.....	34
KHEJURI BLOCK	37
Serial No.-06 KHEJURI HERITAGE PARK, KHEJURI.....	38
CONTAI-III BLOCK	46
Serial No.-07 JAGANNATH TEMPLE, DIHIBAHIRI	47
References:	54



Final Report on

DISTRICT PURBA MEDINIPUR, W.B.

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This photo of Haldia is courtesy of Tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/LocationPhotos-g1162536-Haldia_East_Midnapore_District_West_Bengal.html#197003924)

June 2020; Revised & edited March 2021



INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The River Ganga has been recognized as being completely intertwined with the religious and This report is part of the Architectural Heritage documentation work being carried out in seven districts of the state of West Bengal through which the River Ganga flows before meeting the Bay of Bengal down south. The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) project is, in turn, a larger cultural chronicle of the River Ganga- the single-most significant spiritual-cum-cultural spine and vital life force of Indian land and people.

However, due to the ongoing unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic and the lockdown that was put to effect from 22nd March 2020, the field work had to be suspended for compliance with the Govt. order and the preliminary report presented the desk research based documentation in June 2020. The current report has been revised based on the site visits carried out in February 2021.

1.2 Scope of Work (Architectural Heritage Documentation)

Visual documentation of architectural/ archaeological/ other built heritage within 5.0 kms of River Bhagirathi-Hooghly in SEVEN districts of W.B., by identifying these from various secondary and primary sources and present these as per the given format provided by INTACH.

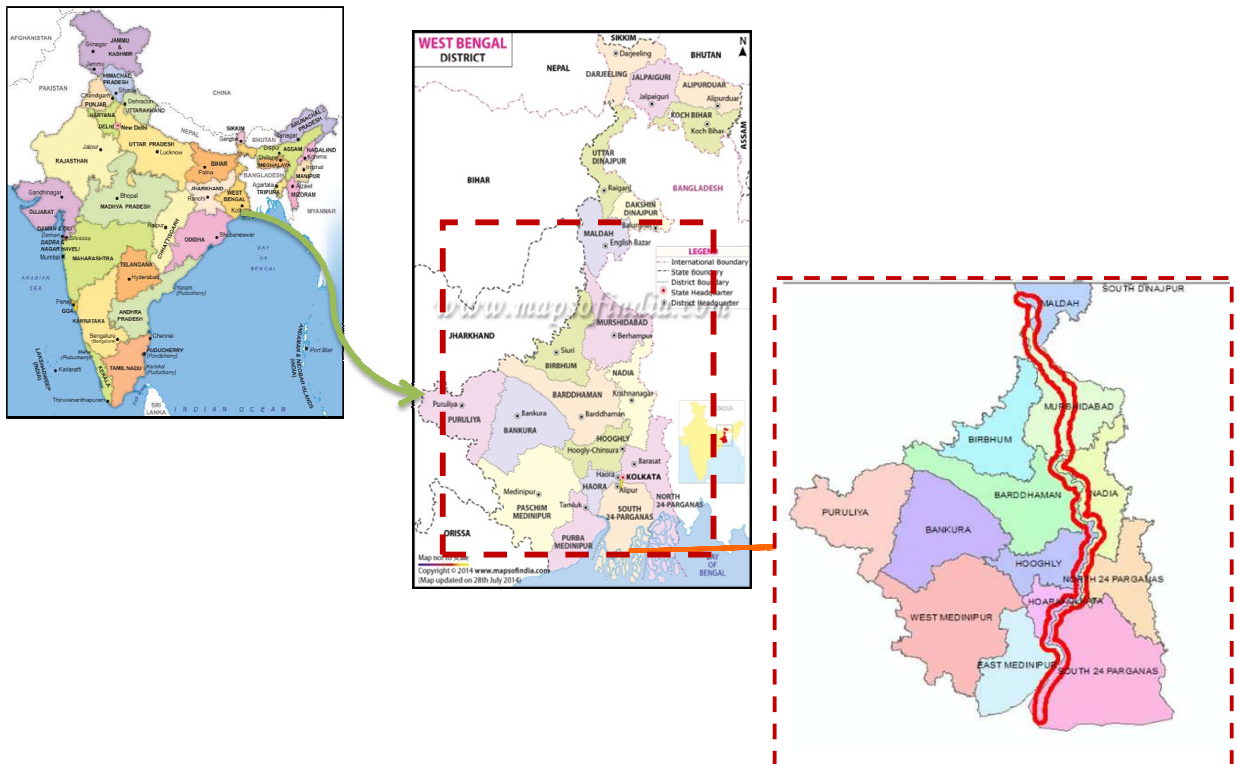


Fig. 1 Location of the Gangetic plains of Lower Bengal with respect to India



1. South 24 Parganas
2. North 24 Parganas
3. **Purba (East) Medinipur**
4. Nadia,
5. Hooghly,
6. Kolkata and
7. Howrah



Fig. 2 Physical extent & sequence of work in the seven districts and the buffer zone

**Table 1: District-wise Sequence of work vis-à-vis target date of report submission**

Sl. No	DISTRICTS	POLICE STATION	BLOCKS (north to south)	Final REPORT SUBMISSION [Days/Months]	
3	PURBA MEDINIPUR 92 KM	1	Mahishadal	Mahishadal	150 5 th month
		2	Sutahata	Sutahata	
		3	Durgachak	Partly Sutahata & Haldia	
		4	Haldia	Haldia + Haldia Municipality	
		5	Nandigram	Nandigram	
		6.	Khejuri (Janka)	Khejuri	
		7.	Marishda	Contai- III NOTE: The Bahiri Jagannath Temple (Bada Deul) is more than 10 km away from the river. But this has been included because of its architectural & cultural significance.	

1.3 Key Aspects:

- i. **Project Name:** Ganga Heritage Documentation
- ii. **Section:** Documenting **Architectural, Archaeological, Other Built Heritage**
- iii. **Schedule:** Time frame Plan of Action for 12 months
- iv. **Total No of Districts:** 07
- v. **Buffer limit:** 5 Kms.
- vi. **No of Phases:** Three
- vii. **Phase I:** ONE District to be covered, i.e. Part of the Districts along river Bhagirathi-Hugli i.e. South (Dakshin) 24 Parganas
- viii. **Phase II:** THREE Districts to be covered, i.e. Part of the Districts along river Bhagirathi-Hugli i.e. North (Uttar) 24 Parganas, **East (Purba) Medinipur** & Nadia
- ix. **Phase III:** THREE Districts to be covered, i.e. Part of the Districts along river Bhagirathi-Hugli i.e. Hooghly, Kolkata & Howrah

1.4 Historical Background of the District

Purba Medinipur's district town Tamluk has a rich and distinguished historical legacy and derives its name from the Sanskrit word Tamra Lipta meaning "Full of Copper". According to local folklore the name Tamralipta came from the King Tamradhwaja (which means The King with Copper Flag/symbol) of the Mayura-Dhwaja (Peacock) dynasty. Possibly with a huge



resource of copper and the fortune it generated, these names -- Tamralipta and Raja Tamradhawja have come into being. Interestingly, King Bijay- a contemporary of Lord Buddha, travelled from the Tamralipta fort to Sri Lanka in the 5th c. BC and had named the country 'Tamraparni', which can still be found in historic texts.

The legend surrounding the origin of the name Tamralipta can be traced back to some early Vaisnava religious texts: Once, when Lord Krishna was playing Maharaas in Vraj at Vrindavan, Surya Dev (Sun God) rose from the east and accidentally saw Lord Krishna engaged in *leela* with Sri Radhika and the Gopi.s. Embarrassed, Surya Dev blushed with a reddish copper glow or Tamra and hid (Lipta) himself in the Bay of Bengal. The place where Surya Dev returned to hid himself is what came to be known as Tamralipta.

History of Tamluk¹

This ancient port city and kingdom was bounded by the Bay of Bengal in the south, river Rupnarayana (the joint flow of the river Dwarkeshwar & the river Shilawati or Shilai) in the east and Subarnarekha in the west. The Bay of Bengal and these rivers along-with their numerous branches created a suitable place for human habitation that prospered in agriculture as well as maritime trade because of the riverine navigational system fostering commerce, culture and early contacts with the people of the wider world. Archaeological remains show continuous settlement from about 3rd century BC. It was known as Tramralipti (in the Purans and the Mahabharata) or Tamralipta (in Mahabharata) or Tamalika (in historical documents) or Tamalitti (in foreigners' descriptions) or Tamoluk (in the British Raj). In the Mahabharata (Bhishma Parba/Nabam Adhyay) while describing the names of the holiest rivers and kingdoms of India, Sanjay took the name of "Tamralipta" to Emperor Dhritarastra. Tamluk was also known as 'Bibhas' (mythological name in religious texts) and Madhya Desh (as the Middle State of Utkal/Kalinga and Banga). According to Jain sources, Tamralipti was the capital of the kingdom of Vanga and was long known as a seaport. Located 42 km from the industrial hub of Haldia and 80 km from Kolkata, it is today famous for its thousand-year-old Bargabhima temple which is one of the 51 Sati Peeths according to Hindu Mythology.

British period²: The district of Medinipur had no boundary during the start of the British rule. The British changed the boundaris of Medinipur several times during the period of 1760-1805 AD. The year 1772 saw East India Company constituting a Revenue Committee for facilitation of revenue-collection. The Hooghly Collectorate incorporating Tamluk, Mahisadal and Hijli was

¹Official website of Government of West Bengal ", [Online: web] Accessed 12th June 2020
[http://purbamedinipur.gov.in/hist.htm#:~:text=History&text=East%20Midnapore%20\(or%20Purba%20Medinipur,district%20on%20January%201%2C%202002.](http://purbamedinipur.gov.in/hist.htm#:~:text=History&text=East%20Midnapore%20(or%20Purba%20Medinipur,district%20on%20January%201%2C%202002.)

² Census of India 2011, Series 20 Part XII A, District Census Handbook Purba Medinipur, Directorate of Census Operations, W.B., pg. 12.



one of the then 13 Collectorates. The Collectorates of Bardhaman and Medinipur were constituted in the year 1772-73 during which the *Pargana* of Jaleswar went to Medinipur. Hooghly, Hijli, Mahisadal and Tamluk became parts of the Revenue Council in November 1773 AD. Bardhaman, Medinipur, Vishnupur, Pachet, Birbhum and Ramgarh were parts of the Bardhaman Committee. Bengal got divided into 28 districts in the year 1773 and the bigger districts were sometimes referred to as ‘provinces’. Even Medinipur was, at times, referred to as ‘Medinipur Province’ in the Revenue Records. The districts of Hijli and Tamluk jointly started being called ‘*Nimak Mahal*’ in the year 1780 AD. The year 1787 AD saw the formation of 14 Collectorates. The two large Fiscal Divisions of Tamluk and Mahisadal, which had, till then, been the separate jurisdiction of Hooghly were transferred to Medinipur on 10th February, 1790. The year 1806 saw the annexation of Maratha Parganas to Hijli Salt Agency. Almost at the end of the 19th century, Medinipur incorporated Chandrakona Fiscal Division by severing it from Hooghly.

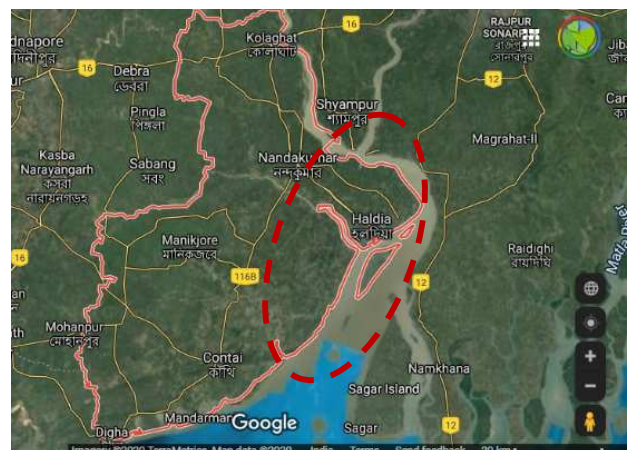
Post-independence period: East Midnapore (or **Purba Medinipur**) is one of the 18 administrative districts of West Bengal as well as the southernmost district of Medinipur division – one of the five administrative divisions of the State with its headquarters located at Tamluk. The district was carved out of the erstwhile Medinipur district on January 1, 2002. Paschim Medinipur lies on its northern and western side. Purba Medinipur is formed of the sub-divisions of Tamluk, Contai and Haldia while another sub-division - Egra has been created out of the erstwhile Contai sub-division during the partition of Medinipur. In 2011, the state government has proposed to rename the district as Tamralipta district after the ancient port city of Tamralipta which used to lie near the modern district headquarters. Purba Medinipur saw many political movements during the British Raj. A parallel government named the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was formed during the Quit India Movement in Tamluk.³



1.5 River Ganga through Purba Medinipur District

R. Ganga passes through the following PS. & Blocks of Purba Medinipur:

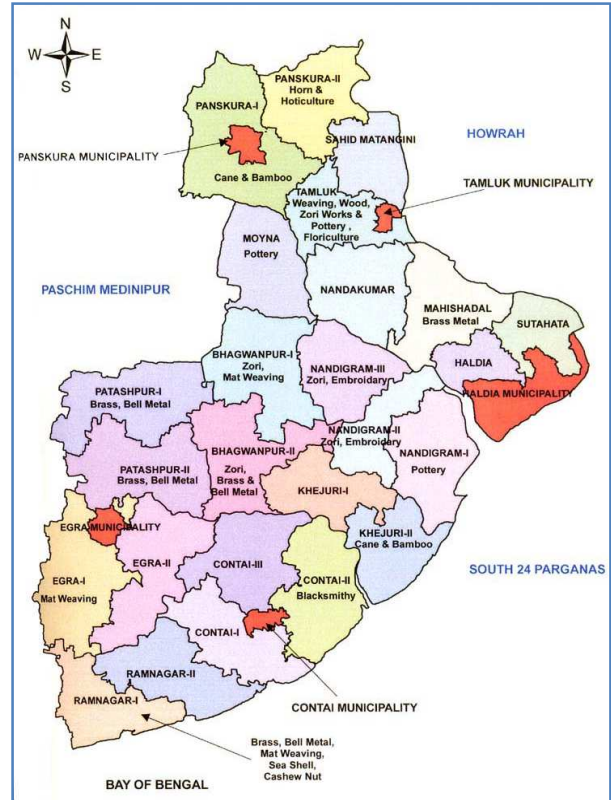
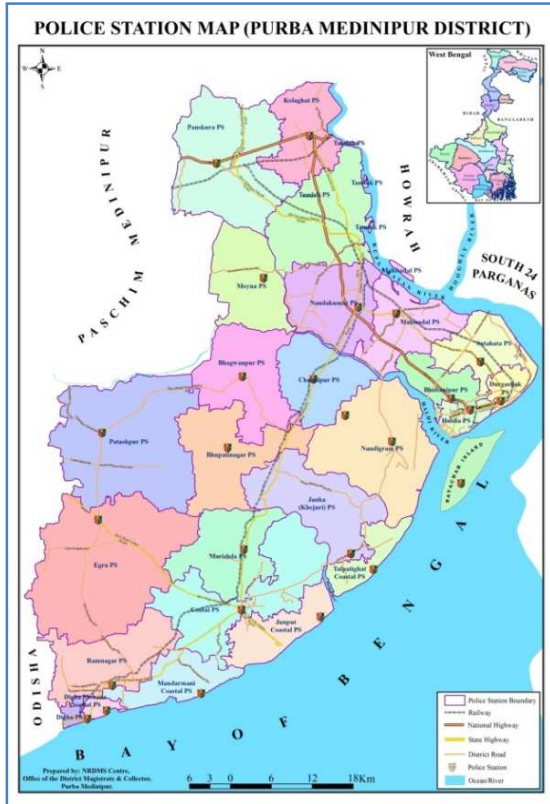
- 1.Mahishadal (Block & PS)
- 2.Sutahata (Block & PS)
- 3.Haldia & Haldia Municipality (PS Haldia & Durgachak)
- 4.Nandigram (Block & PS)
- 5.Khejuri (Block & PS)



<https://askgii.com/blog/1000/top-places-to-visit-in-purba-medinipur-tamluk-west-bengal/>



Fig-3 River Ganga through Purba Medinipur
Source: Google Map



Figs 4 & 5 Police Station Map & Administrative units of Purba Medinipur
Source: <http://purbamedinipur.gov.in/MAP.htm> and
http://wbkvib.org.in/images/stories/District_MAP/Purba%20Medinipur_Map.jpg

1.6 Identification of Sites

Purba Medinipur has passed through different geographical phases that have also influenced its history. Considering the scope of our documentation of built heritage within 5 km from the river Ganga, the following sites (Table 3) have been documented and verified through site visits:

Table 3: Checklist of Heritage sites by the River Ganga
(As mentioned under respective Blocks from north to south)

Sl.	Block & PS	Documented Sites
1.	Mahishadal (Block & PS)	i. Sri Sri Madan Gopal Jew temple Complex, Mahishadal



		ii. Phulbaag palace (Mahishadal new Rajbari)
		iii. Rangi Basan Palace (old Rajbari)
		iv. Jal Bungalow, Phulbaag palace complex
2.	Sutahata (Block & PS)	v. Muktidham Temple, Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Chaitanyapur
3.	Khejuri PS Janka	vi. Forest range office, khejuri heritage park, India's first post office, cemetery
4.	Contai- III, PS- Marishda	vii. The Bahiri Jagannath Temple (Bada Deul) is more than 10 km away from the river. But this has been included because of its architectural & cultural significance.

However, several sites of antiquity and archaeological importance can be found in the adjoining blocks of Tamluk (north-west of Mahishadal) and Contai (south-west of Khejuri): Sri Sri Bargabhma Mata temple and Tamluk Rajbari ruins in Tamluk, Mohanpur Jagannath Temple, Kajlagarh Rajbari, 17th c. temple in Jorar nagar, Nachinda Temple, Dariapur Lighthouse, Siddeshwar Shiva temple with Kapalkundala Kali Mandir & Rishi Bankim memorial.



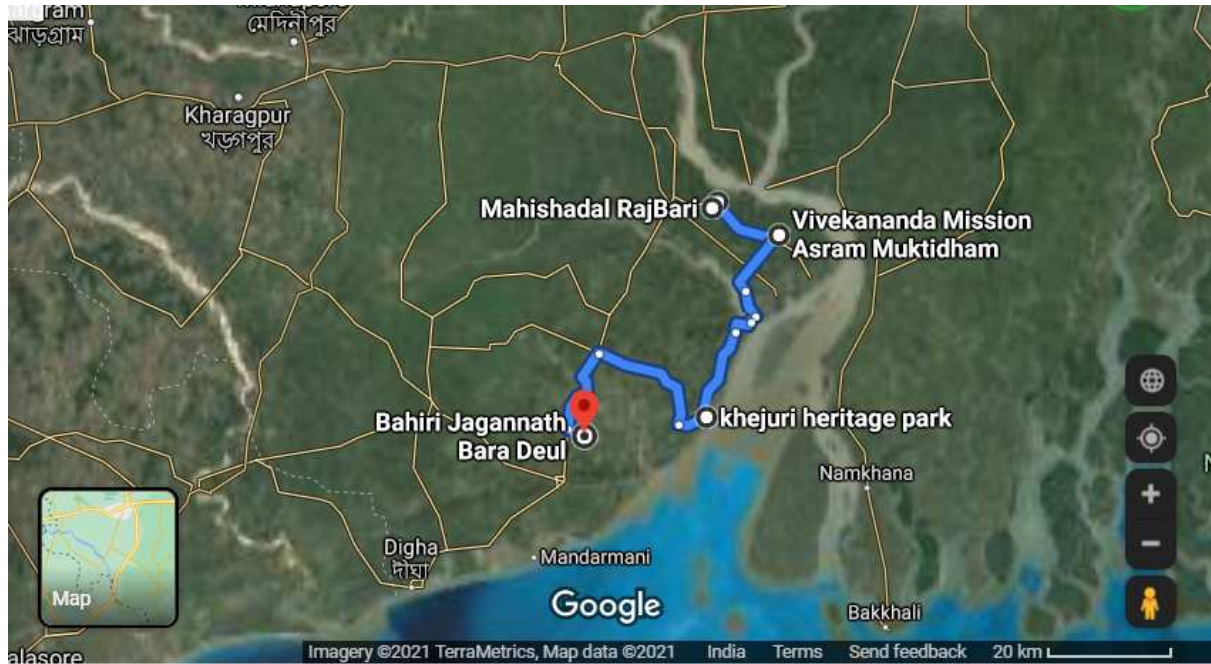


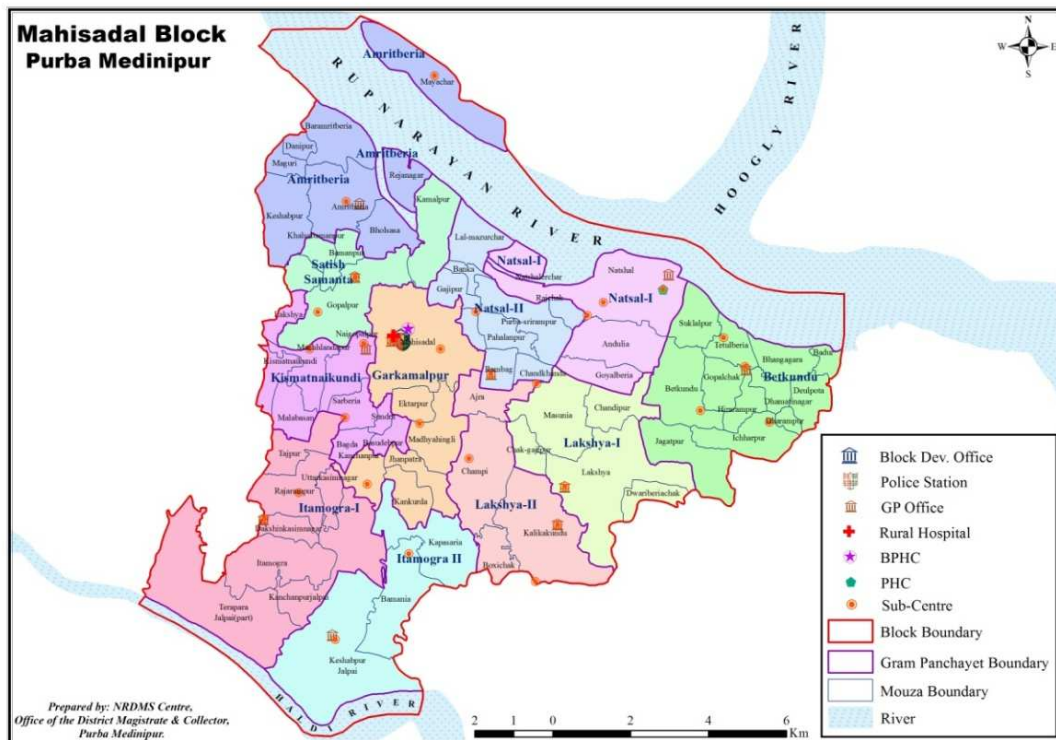
Fig. 6 Location of documented sites

Source:

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Mahishadal+RajBari,+Mahishadal+new+Raj+Bari,+Garh+Kamalpur,+West+Bengal/Rangibasan,+West+Bengal/Vivekananda+Mission+Asram+Muktidham,+Sutahata,+West+Bengal/khejuri+heritage+park,+Unnamed+Road,+Kadirabad+Char,+West+Bengal/Bahiri+Jagannath+Bara+Deul,+Marishda+Bahiri+Road,+Deulbarh,+West+Bengal/@22.0567843,87.2413244,121784m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m32!4m31!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02ed08da5a84dd:0xe84f7211e208cd70!2m2!1d87.9850813!2d22.1821729!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02ed6cdb91ee5b:0x10306e6ade8d77ca!2m2!1d87.9934924!2d22.1918323!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02f407f8cf8015:0x5923f70366951fba!2m2!1d88.0901814!2d22.1434086!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02e3480a585599:0xc24fa681d82dea1!2m2!1d87.974617!2d21.8738315!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02df542e1620d7:0x6b75a3c5077e63a6!2m2!1d87.7807292!2d21.8453838!3e0>



MAHISHADAL BLOCK



Sl	Block & PS	Documented Sites
1.	Mahishadal (Block & PS)	i. Sri Sri Madan Gopal Jew temple Complex, Mahishadal
		ii. Phulbaag palace (Mahishadal new Rajbari)
		iii. Rangi Basan Palace (old Rajbari)
		iv. Jal Bungalow, Phulbaag palace complex

**Serial No.-01SRI SRI MADAN GOPAL JEW TEMPLE COMPLEX, MAHISHADAL**

Map Reference: Photo Reference:

1. Name

Present Name: **SRI SRI MADAN GOPAL JEW TEMPLE COMPLEX**
Past Name: **-DO-**

2. Location

Latitude: 22°11'02.2"N
Longitude: 87°59'8.4"E
Address: Mahishadal Rajbari Estate, West Bengal 721628
Approach: Either from Mahishadal Rly Station or Geonkhali ferry

**3. Property Type**

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site

Subtype: **Precinct**
Religious

4. Date of ConstructionPrecise Date: **1778**

Approximate Date:

Source of information:

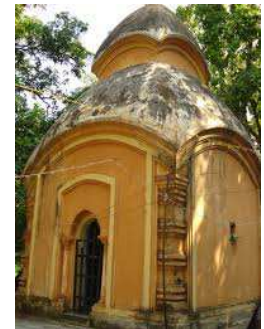
- i. Census of India 2011, Series 20 Part XII A, District Census Handbook Purba Medinipur, Directorate of Census Operations, W.B., pg 111.

**5. Ownership**

Single/Multiple Multiple
Public/Private Public (check)
Any other (specify) -
Name of owner: Garg Family Trust?
Address: Mahishadal, West Bengal 721628

6. Property Use

Abandoned/In use: In use
Present use: Hindu temple
Past use: -do-

**7. Significance**

Historic Significance: The Sri Sri Madan Gopal Jew Temple is situated inside the Mahishadal Rajbari estate. This temple complex was built by Rani Janaki, widow of zamindar Anandalal Upadhyay, in the year 1774 and comprises of two Shiva temples, a Jagannath temple and a Natmandir. There are also two Nahabatkhana.s (pavilion for playing live music) on the two sides of the entrance of the complex. Gopal (baby Krishna) is the principal deity of the main temple along-side Sri Radha-Krishna while Sri Jagannath-Balaram-Subhadra are worshipped in the Jagannath temple and Shiva in the Shiva temple.

8. Architectural Description



Architectural Style: The main temple is built in the Nabaratna style of Bengal temple architecture, while the Shiva temples are in typical Bengal Aatchala style.

Site & Surrounding: Rural agrarian surrounding with settlements with water-bodies

Plan: Square main temple, east facing and entry from east

Façade: Triple arched openings with curved parapets and triratha/ pancharatha pidha deuls on top. Shiva temples are more squatting than slender, compared to 24 Parganas temple, which may be a response to the natural setting of exposure to high velocity winds. Façade is simple with west facing arched doorways. Nahabatkhana structures are low double storeyed pavilions with projected balconies covered with sloped metal roof-sheets on four sides at upper level and pointed arch doorways with Gibbs surround at lower level. A dome is placed on top of the roof of both structures.

Decorative Feature: Cusped arches, coffered walls & articulated corners

Building material and: Burnt bricks, lime surkhi, lime concrete

Construction techniques Brick masonry

Two to three photographs at least to show the architectural style and condition.



9. Associated Intangible values 250-year old temple with living tradition

10. Condition Description

Sign of Distress: Not found

Structural Problem: Not found

Additions & alterations: Apparent in some places, but well-maintained

Repairs and Maintenance: Adequate

Threats to the property: None



Sri Jagannath temple

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration Good, locally restored

Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance None

12. Other Remarks RathaYatra festival started by Rani Janki Devi in 1776 is still celebrated with a 13-ratna wooden ratha (chariot).

13. Grade

Archaeological: B

Architectural: B

Historical: A

Associational: A

Social/Cultural: A

Final Grading: I/IIA/IIB/III **I**



13-ratna Chariot

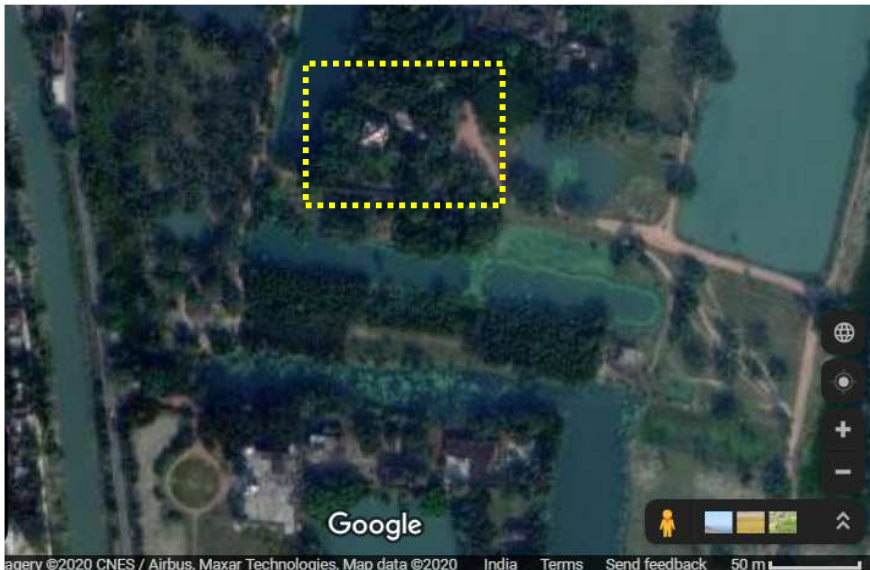
14. References



- i. <https://www.kolkataonwheels.com/post/mahishadal-rajbari-a-touch-of-royalty>
- ii. <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Mahishadal,+West+Bengal/Mahishadal+station,+Ajra,+West+Bengal/@22.1803203,87.9713807,5099m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02ed0af0f7b7b5:0x3f557df2fd03509f!2m2!1d87.9898205!2d22.1813597!1m5!1m1!1s0x3a02ed805d868097:0xc024b195420380!2m2!1d88.0104182!2d22.1761733!3e2>

Reference notes

Maps/plan/Drawings



Lister
Name Suchandra Bardhan
Address Kolkata
Date of Listing 12.06.2020

Reviewer
Name Gopa Sen
Address Kolkata



Field photographs taken in February 2021









Serial No-02

PHULBAAG PALACE (MAHISHADAL NEW RAJBARI)

Map Reference:

Photo Reference:

1. Name

Present Name: **PHULBAAG PALACE** (Mahishadal new Rajbari)
Past Name: -do-

2. Location

Latitude: 22°10'55.9"N
Longitude: 87°59'06.3"E

Address: Kapaseria-Mahishadal Rd,
Mahishadal, West Bengal 721628
Approach: 4 km from Mahishadal Rly Station
via Station Road

3. Property Type

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site

Precinct

Subtype: Palatial residential house

4. Date of Construction

Precise Date: 1937 (by another account: 1926)

Approximate Date:

Source of information:

- i. <https://www.hda.gov.in/utilities/tourism-amp-hospitality>

5. Ownership

Single/Multiple: Single
Public/Private: Private

Any other (specify)

Name of owner: Garg family

Address: Mahishadal & Kolkata

6. Property Use

Abandoned/In use: In use

Present use: Residential on 1st fl., museum & home-stay on Gr. fl.

Past use: Residential

7. Significance

Historic Significance:

Culture Significance:

Social Significance:

The history of Mahishadal royal family dates back to Mughal Emperor Akbar's time, when Birnarayan Roy Chowdhury of the old Tamralipta Raj family was the local ruler. His descendant, Kalyan Roy Chowdhury, was the first to get the title of 'Raja' of Mahishadal, amongst other regions. In the middle of the 16th century, the properties were given away to one Janarddan Upadhyay of UP, representative of Mughal emperor, when Kalyan Roy Chowdhury failed to clear the dues to the Mughal court. The zamindari of Mahishadal began to expand under Janarddan's descendents Raja Rajaram Upadhyaya, followed by Anandalal Upadhyaya, Rani Janaki, widow of Anandalal, from 1770-1804, her grand-son (daughter's son) Raja Guruprasad Garg, his son Raja Jagannath Garg and so on.



View from south-west corner



Associational Significance:
Local legends:

They used to reside in the old palace called Rangibasan Rajbari till this new palace called Phulbaag palace was built in 1937 (or 1926 by another record) by Raja Sati Prasad Garg. Kalyani Devi, the wife of Deba Prasad Garg, used to reside in this palace till her death in 2011, but the current descendants reside in Kolkata.

8. Architectural Description

Architectural Style: Indo-European style with strong neo-classical characteristic.
 Site & Surrounding: Mix of settlements and rural landscape, with a large no of water- bodies
 Plan: The Darbar Hall or the main assembly hall of this palace is in the ground floor.
 Façade: A double storeyed compact mansion with central grand entrance way flanked by twin Ionic columns and wide plinth steps to access the elevated ground floor level. Symmetrically designed, the two wings on both sides have double-height fluted columns with angular ionic capital and high pedestals with Rinceaux (garland) designs in plaster. The side walls culminate in octagonal bastion-like rooms topped with raised hemispherical domes & blind windows at the base with triangular pediments supported by large ogee bracket walls on four sides above roof level. The triple bay wings with verandah on both floors have arched openings at the ground level but open on the first floor with the entablature consisting of a plain frieze, modillion course & cornice. The central bay ends in a belvedere on the roof, topped with a larger hemispherical dome surmounting four pedimented colonnades on four sides, lending unique magnificence to the whole structure.
 Decorative Feature: Columns, domes, pediments, ogee brackets, parapet & wall ornamentations
 Building material and: Brick and Concrete
 Construction techniques: Brick masonry

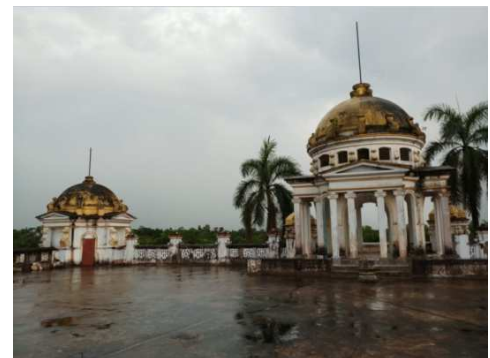
9. Associated Intangible values

10. Condition Description

Sign of Distress: Not found
 Structural Problem: Not found
 Additions & alterations: Minor
 Repairs and Maintenance: Adequately maintained
 Threats to the property: None

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration Excellent
 Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance None



Belvedere at roof level

12. Other Remarks

13. Grade

Archaeological: B
 Architectural: A
 Historical: A
 Associational: A
 Social/Cultural: A
 Final Grading: I



14. References

- ii. https://www.midnapore.in/tourism_mid_mahisadal.html
- iii. <https://wbtourismdotblog.wordpress.com/2018/08/30/mahisadal-stories-of-yesteryear/>
- iv. <https://www.kolkataonwheels.com/post/mahisadal-rajbari-a-touch-of-royalty>

Reference notes

Maps/plan/Drawings



Lister Name	Suchandra Bardhan	Reviewer Name	Gopa Sen
Address	Kolkata	Address	Kolkata
Date of Listing	12.06.2020		



Field photographs taken in February 2021









Serial No-03

RANGIBASAN PALACE (MAHISHADAL OLD RAJBARI)

Map Reference:

Photo Reference:

1. Name

Present Name: **RANGIBASAN PALACE (Mahishadal old Rajbari)**
Past Name: -do-

2. Location

Latitude: 22°11'04.4"N
Longitude: 87°59'11.2"E

Address: Mahishadal Rajbari Road,
Mahishadal, West Bengal 721628
Approach: 600 m from Mahishadal New Raj bari
& about 3.5 km from Mahishadal Rly
Station via Station Road

3. Property Type

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site
Building
Residential house

4. Date of Construction

Precise Date: 1840
Approximate Date:
Source of information:
i. <https://www.hda.gov.in/utilities/tourism-amp-hospitality>

5. Ownership

Single/Multiple Single
Public/Private Private
Any other (specify)
Name of owner: Garg family
Address: Mahishadal & Kolkata

6. Property Use

Abandoned/In use: Not in use
Present use:
Past use: Residential

7. Significance

Historic Significance: Historical background same as the Mahishadal New Rajbari.
Culture Significance: However, this Rangibasan Rajbari is the older palace, named after the village. It was built in 1840 and served as the royal residence for nearly 100 years till the new palace called Phulbaag palace was built in 1937 (or 1926 by another account) by Raja Sati Prasad Garg.
Social Significance: A shed with metal-roofing on one side of this palace is used for public plays and jatras. On the other side is the Durga Mandap where Durga Puja is held every year.



View from west

**8. Architectural Description**

Architectural Style:	Purely European in style with Victorian characteristic.
Site & Surrounding:	Mix of settlements and rural landscape, with a large no of water- bodies
Plan:	Rectangular building with entry from the west and a lower ground floor and impressive flight of steps to reach the ground floor. There may be another entry from the north to the andarmahal.
Façade:	A double storeyed mansion with a verandah in the front and a courtyard asymmetrically placed inside. Two lion statues frame both sides of the flight of steps at the entrance. The lower ground floor apparently housed a stable and is viewable through the pointed arch openings. The front façade has six arcaded bays separated by piers supporting the semi-circular Victorian arches, each having double-arch openings topped by an oculus at the spandrel, The two central bays at the ground floor level serve as the main entry to the building. Pilasters highlight the corners and entablatures consist of a plain frieze, modillion course and a cornice.
Decorative Feature:	Pier treatment, parapet, arch-surrounds
Building material and:	Brick and Lime Concrete
Construction techniques	Brick masonry and joist-lath floor construction

9. Associated Intangible values**10. Condition Description**

Sign of Distress:	Not found
Structural Problem:	Not found
Additions & alterations:	Not known
Repairs and Maintenance:	Under restoration now
Threats to the property:	Natural degradation

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration	Under restoration
Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance	Not any more

12. Other Remarks It is listed by W.B. Heritage Commission, notified on 22.09.2016.**13. Grade**

Archaeological:	B
Architectural:	A
Historical:	A
Associational:	A
Social/Cultural:	A
Final Grading:	I

14. References

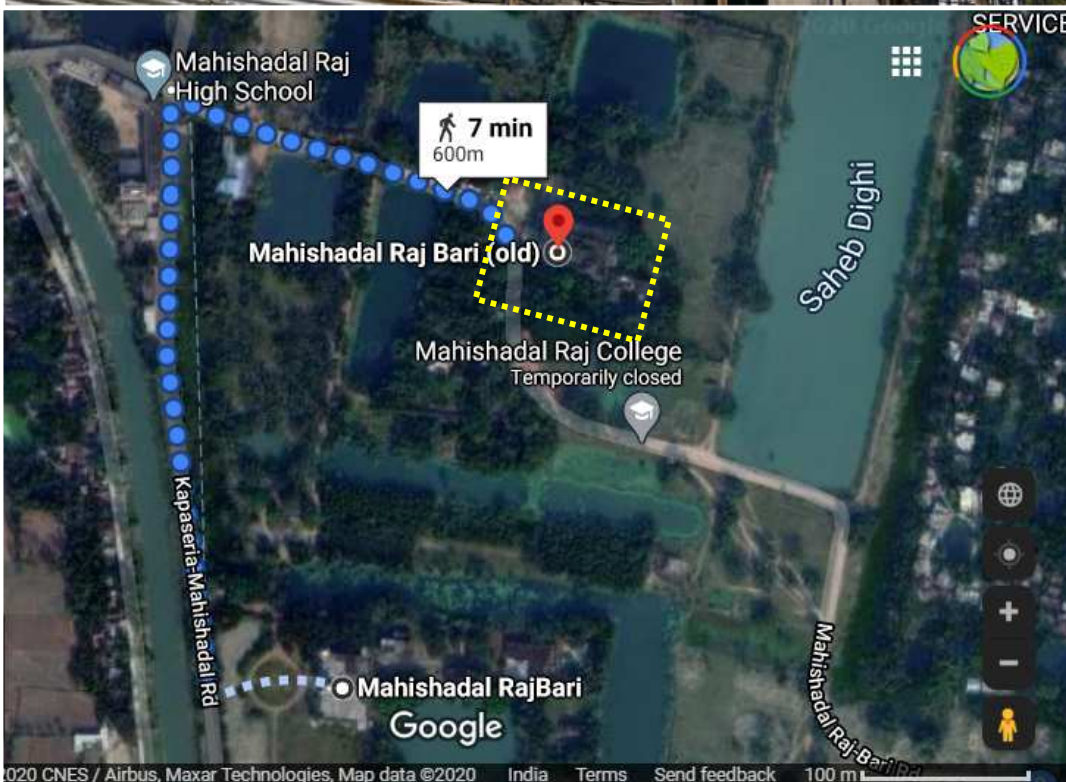
- i. <https://wbtourismdotblog.wordpress.com/2018/08/30/mahishadal-stories-of-yesteryear/>
- ii. <https://www.kolkataonwheels.com/post/mahishadal-rajbari-a-touch-of-royalty>
- iii. https://wbhc.in/home/place_details/ZDhmMDAwMzFhODc1MjQ4NWYxMmJhZTdmZGZlZj11MmQyNWZhODMyNzA5MDQyYzRkODI3YTAYMDY4NmFhZDg4MjYxODgxNjQ0ZDRjZTA0MzQ3YjYyZGUzOWZlYTRmZTVhZ



TBhMzg4NDhhODJhZWEzOThhYWFiOGVINDcxNmRmZWFIUIFHZStwR0ZZekVGbEZAQXprUzBPS0svaFpaMnYxUUxxcEwyOEN4amNjPQ==

Reference notes

Maps/plan/Drawings



Lister Name Suchandra Bardhan
Address Kolkata
Date of Listing 12.06.2020

Reviewer Name Gopa Sen
Address Kolkata



Field photographs taken in February 2021







**Serial No-04****JAL BUNGALOW, MAHISHADAL RAJBARI PRECINCT**

Map Reference:

Photo Reference:

1. Name

Present Name:

JAL BUNGALOW, MAHISHADAL

Past Name:

-DO-**2. Location**

Latitude:

22°10'56.5"N

Longitude:

87°59'10.4"E

Address:

Mahishadal Rajbari Road,
Mahishadal, West Bengal 721628

Approach:

600 m from Mahishadal New Raj bari
& about 3.5 km from Mahishadal Rly
Station via Station Road**3. Property Type**

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site

Building

Subtype:

Residence

4. Date of Construction

Precise Date:

-

Approximate Date:

Late 19th /early 20th C.

Source of information:

5. Ownership

Single/Multiple

Single

Public/Private

Private

Any other (specify)

Name of owner:

Garg family

Address:

Mahishadal & Kolkata

6. Property Use

Abandoned/In use:

In use

Present use:

Residential

Past use:

Residential

7. Significance

Historic Significance:

Same as the Mahishadal New Rajbari.

Culture Significance:

However, exact history of this particular building is not known.

Social Significance:

Associational Significance:

Local legends:

8. Architectural Description

Architectural Style:

A mixed style with both Indian & European characteristics.

Site & Surrounding:

Mix of settlements and rural landscape, with a large no of water- bodies

Plan:

'L'-shaped building facing south-west, overlooking a forecourt in front





Façade: A single storeyed out-house like building with verandah in the front and graceful curvatures on the exterior. Stout & round twin columns with Corinthian capitals support cinquefoil arches ending in pendant at the cusps. The spandrel areas have lattice work. Parapet has triangular crests with round openings over certain bays, while the central one is crowned with ornamentations and a name plaque.

Decorative Feature: Arches, parapet, column capital, wall ornamentations

Building material and: Brick and lime Concrete

Construction techniques Brick masonry and joist-lath floor construction

9. Associated Intangible values

10. Condition Description

Sign of Distress: Seepage issues

Structural Problem: Not found

Additions & alterations: Not known

Repairs and Maintenance: Fair

Threats to the property: Natural degradation

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration Fair

Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance None

12. Other Remarks An extraordinary building geometry that is not much seen in this region

13. Grade

Archaeological: B

Architectural: A

Historical: B

Associational: B

Social/Cultural: B

Final Grading: **IIA**

14. References

i. <https://www.kolkataonwheels.com/post/mahishadal-rajbari-a-touch-of-royalty>

Reference notes

Maps/plan/Drawings

Lister

Name Suchandra Bardhan

Address Kolkata

Date of Listing 12.06.2020

Reviewer

Name Gopa Sen

Address Kolkata





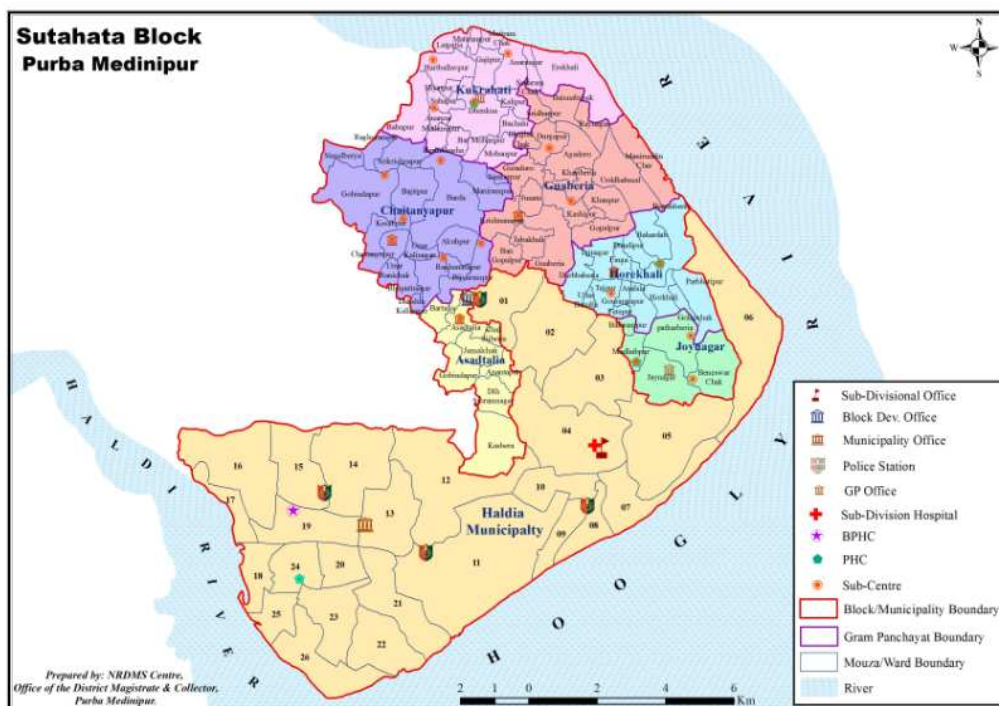
Field photographs taken in February 2021



Lalkutthi (centre) and Jal Bungalow (extreme back)



SUTAHATA BLOCK



Sl.	Block & PS	Documented Sites	Tentatively Listed
	Sutahata (Block & PS)	Muktidham Temple, Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Chaitanyapur	<i>Dero Pargana temple, Debhog⁴</i>

⁴ https://www.midnapore.in/tourism_sutahata.html

**Serial No.-05 MUKTIDHAM, VIVEKANANDA MISSION ASHRAM, CHAITANYAPUR**

Map Reference: Photo Reference:

1. Present Name: **MUKTIDHAM, Vivekananda Mission Ashram**
Past Name: **-DO-**

2. Location

Latitude: 22°08'37"N
Longitude: 88°05'24.8"E
Address: Kukrahati-Haldia Rd., P.O. Chaitanyapur,
Purba Medinipur, West Bengal- 721645
Approach: By bus from (6.3 km) Kukrahati ferry ghat

**3. Property Type**

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site
Precinct
Subtype: Religious/ secular

4. Date of Construction

Precise Date: Ashram in 1962, temple in 1999
Approximate Date:
Source of information:
i. <http://vmaindia.net/html/origin.html>

5. Ownership

Single/Multiple **Multiple**
Public/Private **Private**
Any other (specify) -
Name of owner: Vivekananda Mission Ashram
Address: P.O. Chaitanyapur, Purba Medinipur,
West Bengal- 721645

**6. Property Use**

Abandoned/In use: In use
Present use: Philanthropic organization and Hindu temple with monastery
Past use: -do-

7. Significance

Historic Significance: Vivekananda Mission Ashram was formed on August 3, 1962 in the remote village of Rampur at the site of a crematorium and slowly evolved as an educational, cultural & philanthropic institution with health facilities, esp. in eye care for the underprivileged. It was founded by Brahmachari Sri Vaktichaitanya on the ideologies propounded by Sri Ramakrishna and followed by Swami Vivekananda. The Muktidham Temple complex consists of two temples - the main temple of Goddess Kali, Sri Radha-Krishna & Hanuman.ji and a separate Shiva temple on the opposite side. The temple was commissioned in 1984 and was inaugurated in 1999 on the eve of birth anniversary of Sri Ramkrishna Paramhansa. Images of Sri Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Saradamani and Swami Vivekananda are also worshipped.

8. Architectural Description



Architectural Style:	Mixed style comprising of Dravida-Rajput-Islamic-European features
Site & Surrounding:	Settlements with vegetation
Plan:	Essentially rectangular with open verandah on all sides, south facing sanctum with an attached prayer hall
Façade:	Built on the lines of the Sari Ramakrishna temple of Belur Math of Howrah, this temple is placed on the first floor approached by a grand flight of steps. The front façade is symmetrical with a porch topped by a curved ‘chala’ structure flanked by two elliptical domes. The main sanctum has a semblance of ‘pancharatna’ with the four domical ‘ratna’ .s at four corners and intermediate ‘chala’ structure. The central semi-elliptical ribbed dome is the main spire on top of the ‘garbha-griha’. The Shiva temple is placed on the same axis but opposite side of the main temple with a tri-ratha shikhara. The entrance gate follows the ‘gopuram’ design.
Decorative Feature:	Eave brackets, dome with foliage at base & other ornamentations.
Building material and:	Bricks and concrete
Construction techniques	Conventional

Two to three photographs at least to show the architectural style and condition.

9. Associated Intangible values

10. Condition Description

Sign of Distress:	Not found
Structural Problem:	Not found
Additions & alterations:	None
Repairs and Maintenance:	Adequate
Threats to the property:	None



Shiva temple

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration	Good
Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance	None

12. Other Remarks Although the temple is a new construction, the organization is continuing for almost 60 years.

13. Grade

Archaeological:	C
Architectural:	A
Historical:	C
Associational:	B
Social/Cultural:	B
Final Grading:	IIB



Entrance Gopuram

14. References

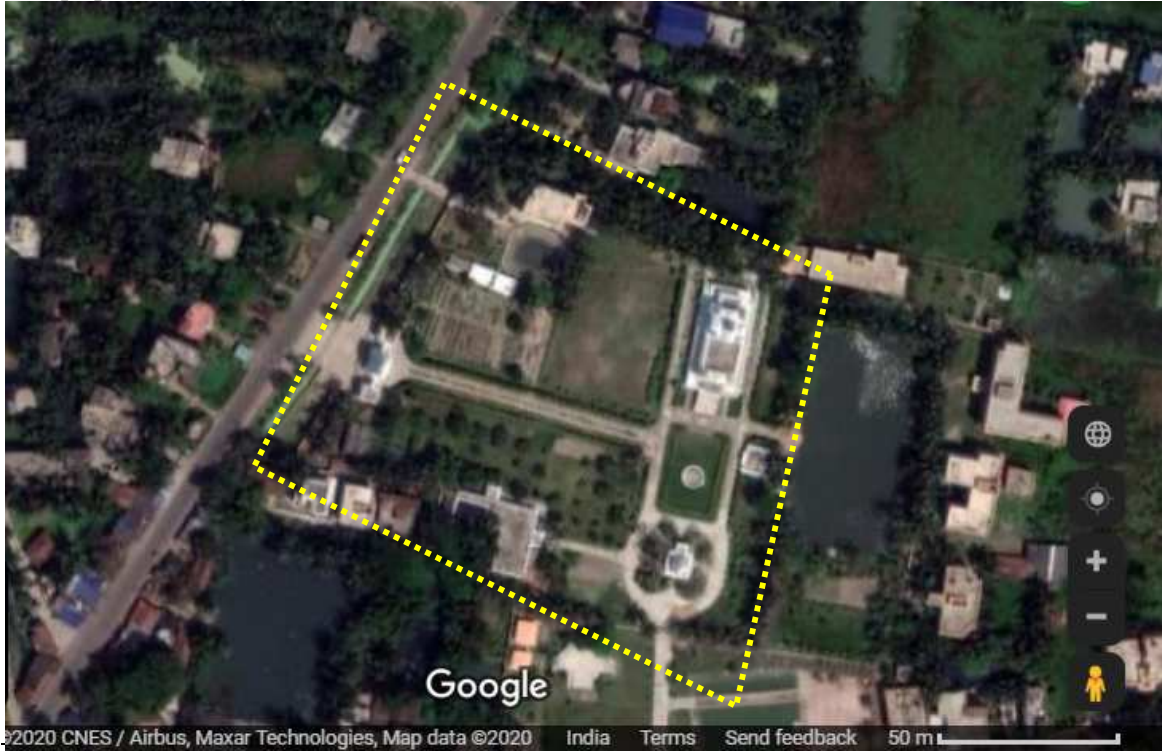
- i. <https://www.holidayiq.com/Muktidham-Temple-Haldia-Sightseeing-1191-9852.html>
- ii. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Vivekananda+Mission+Asram+Muktidham/@22.1436508,88.0885128,235m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m13!1m7!3m6!1s0x3a02ed0af0f7b7b5:0x3f557df2fd03509>



[f!2sMahishadal,+West+Bengal!3b1!8m2!3d22.1813597!4d87.9898205!3m4!1s0x3a02f407f8cf8015:0x5923f70366951fba!8m2!3d22.1434086!4d88.0901814](https://www.google.com/maps/@22.1813597,87.9898205,3m4!1s0x3a02f407f8cf8015:0x5923f70366951fba!8m2!3d22.1434086!4d88.0901814)

Reference notes

Maps/plan/Drawings

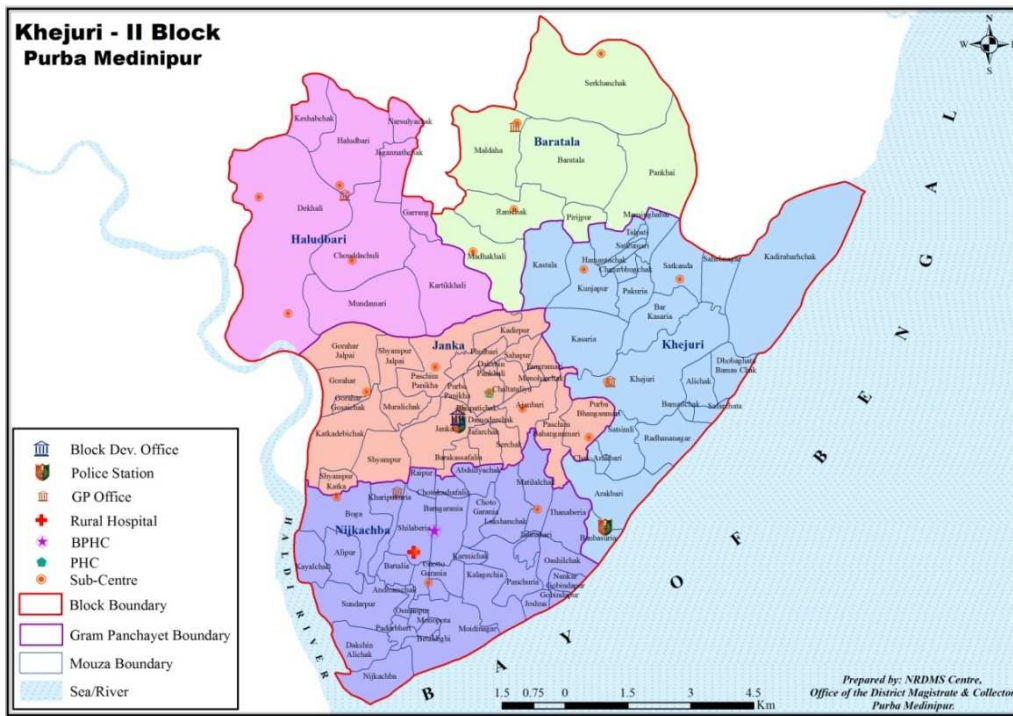


Lister
Name Suchandra Bardhan
Address Kolkata
Date of Listing 14.06.2020

Reviewer
Name Gopa Sen
Address Kolkata



KHEJURI BLOCK



Sl.	Block & PS	Documented Sites	Tentatively Listed
	Khejuri PS Janka	Khejuri Heritage Park: Forest range office, India's first post office, cemetery	-



Serial No.-06

KHEJURI HERITAGE PARK, KHEJURI

Map Reference:

Photo Reference:

1. Name

Present Name:

KHEJURI HERITAGE PARK

Past Name:

CADJEREE POST OFFICE**2. Location**

Latitude: 21°52'25.8"N

Longitude: 87°58'28.7"E

Address: Khejuri, Kadirabad Char, W.Bengal 721431

Approach: 26 km from Haldia via Kendamary Road

**3. Property Type**

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site

Precinct

Subtype:

Utilities/ Institutional**4. Date of Construction**

Precise Date: 1780 (port); 1831 (telegraph tower)

Approximate Date: Others in late 18th c.

Source of information:

i. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khejuri_II**5. Ownership**

Single/Multiple

Multiple

Public/Private

Public

Any other (specify)

Name of owner:

Khejuri Forest Rangers Beat Office, GoWB

Address:

Purba Medinipur Forest Division,

Khejuri, WB 721431

**6. Property Use**

Abandoned/In use:

In use as abandoned

Present use:

Heritage Park

Past use:

Post Office & Optical telegraph (Semaphore Signalling) tower

7. SignificanceHistoric Significance: Khejuri along-with Hijli evolved as an island in the 17th c. The British established their control over 'Cadjeree' in 1765 and formed a port and trading post there by 1780. A light-house was built in 1810 at Dariapur, 8 km down south at the

Culture Significance: confluence of the Rasulpur River with sea. Many Bengali stalwarts of the time like Raja Rammohan Roy (1830) & Prince Dwarkanath Tagore (1842, 1845) sailed for England from here. The British also founded the post office here during late 18th

Social Significance: century that was the **oldest post office** in Bengal. The postmaster at Cadjeree maintained a small fleet of row boats to meet arriving and departing vessels, collecting mail from the arrivals and sending last minute mails on the departures. The optical telegraph tower (working on Semaphore signaling) was erected in 1831-32. However, the cyclone of 1864 destroyed the town, port and the surrounding area as far as Calcutta and causing huge loss of life & properties-devastating Khejuri for life. Eventually, with the Calcutta port coming up, Khejuri became history. There is also an old cemetery where Europeans who died on shipboard enroute to Calcutta were buried.

Local legends:



8. Architectural Description

Architectural Style:	European style
Site & Surrounding:	River-sea confluence and rural agrarian surrounding with settlements
Plan:	The post office is a three storied building with an external side staircase up to the first floor still visible. Rectangular door openings are set within large arched insets. The Semaphore tower, squarish in plan, is a four storied building with a partly surviving arched gateway. Decorative features like corbels, mouldings & cornice at intermediate floor levels still exist in parts.
Façade:	
Decorative Feature:	
	In the cemetery, some of the headstones are still legible and the oldest dates from 1800.
Building material and:	Burnt bricks (circular bricks are seen inside the telegraph tower)
Construction techniques	Brick masonry

Two to three photographs at least to show the architectural style and condition.

9. Associated Intangible values

- This site marks a significant era in the history of communication, with post and telegraph infrastructures established through the ‘Semaphore tower’ - an important chapter in early communication technology.
- Raja Rammohan Ray made a night halt at the post office before leaving for England (1830).
- Dwarkanath Tagore, grandfather of Rabindrnath Tagore, had also left for England twice from this place (1842 & 1845).

10. Condition Description

Sign of Distress:	Highly distressed
Structural Problem:	Mostly in ruins, existing parts have bricks coming out from the base
Additions & alterations:	Not applicable
Repairs and Maintenance:	Khejuri Heritage Surakhsa Samity (check)
Threats to the property:	Both natural (hostile coastal environment) and may be anthropogenic too

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration	Advanced State of Decay
Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance	Danger of Disappearance

12. Other Remarks

An important piece of history, the surviving ruins must be immediately conserved, before these are completely lost.

13. Grade

Archaeological:	A
Architectural:	A
Historical:	A
Associational:	B
Social/Cultural:	B
Final Grading:	I



14. References

- Arindam Bhowmik, https://www.midnapore.in/tourism_khejuri.html



- iii. <https://www.livehistoryindia.com/cover-story/2019/03/24/mysterious-towers-relics-of-the-visual-telegraph>
- iv. <https://amitabhagupta.wordpress.com/2013/07/15/optical-telegraph-in-india-the-forgotten-saga/>
- v. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXdW1UnbJf8>
- vi. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/khejuri+heritage+park/@21.8743075,87.9722626,1393m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x3a02e3480a585599:0xc24fa681d82dea1!8m2!3d21.8738315!4d87.974617>

Reference notes

In 1831-1833, a semaphore line was made with 13 telegraph stations between Calcutta Exchange and Cadjeree (Khejuri). At Cadjeree the Semaphore was used from the lighthouse of Cowcally (Kaukhali, a village near Khejuri). The other 12 stations were at Coverdale's Tree/ Bluf (Kedgree or Cadjeree), Mud Point, Middle Point, Lower Middle Point, Diamond Harbour House, Hooghly Point, Old Fultah Point, Lower Point, Royapore Reach, Moyapur Magazine, Powder Mills and Budge Budge Road [iv]. In 1851-52, the British laid an underwater telegraph cable across up the Hooghly at Diamond Harbour and another across the Haldi river at Cadjeree [i].



Maps/plan/Drawings



Lister
Name Suchandra Bardhan
Address Kolkata
Date of Listing 14.06.2020

Reviewer
Name Gopa Sen
Address Kolkata



Field photographs taken in February 2021













CONTAI-III BLOCK

(Note: This is more than 10 km away from the shoreline, but has an architecturally and culturally significant temple)

Sl.	Block & PS	Documented Sites	<i>Tentatively Listed</i>
1.	Contai III, Marishda police station	Jagannath temple, Dihi Bahiri (Bahiri Bada Deul)	-



Serial No.-07

JAGANNATH TEMPLE, DIHIBAHIRI

Map Reference:

Photo Reference:

1. Name

Present Name: **JAGANNATH TEMPLE/ BAHIRI BADA DEUL**
Past Name: **-DO-**

2. Location

Latitude: 21.845392 N
Longitude: 87.780744 E
Address: Marishda-Bahiri Rd, Deulbarh, Contai, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal 721427
Approach: Opposite Marishda Gram Panchayet office; Digha-bound buses from Kolkata to Marishda, then by a rickshaw/ trekker to Bahiri (approx. 30 minutes). Or from Contai to Bahiri by trekker. Direct car access is possible.

**3. Property Type**

Precinct/Building/Structure/Landscape/Site
Site
Subtype: Religious

4. Date of Construction

Precise Date: 1584
Approximate Date:
Source of information: Official on-site signboard

5. Ownership

Single/Multiple Multiple
Public/Private Public
Any other (specify)
Name of owner: Govt. of West Bengal
Address: -

6. Property Use

Abandoned/In use: In use
Present use: Temple & protected site
Past use: Temple

**7. Significance**

Historic Significance: Temple of Jagannath at Dihi Bahiri was built in 1584 out of a combination of laterite and burnt brick. Bhimsen Mahapatra, an Orissan (Kalinga) king, is believed to have built this temple and handed over its responsibility to his Rajguru Sri Gadadhar Nanda.

Culture Significance:

Social Significance: Bahiri is an ancient town with rich historic past, believed to be part of the Hijli district in Orissa. It is known for the ruins of four Buddhist Stupas- Paltikri, Saptikri, Dhantikri, and Godhantikri. An ancient ashram of Lord Rama is one of the prime attractions of Bahiri. The Bhimsagar lake, a large manmade waterbody is located very close to this temple.

Associational Significance:



Local legends: The name Bahiri is said to have been derived from the Buddhist Vihara.s. There are many ancient villages in and around Bahiri (Daulbar, Dihi-Bahiri, Paik-Bari and Bidhu-Bahiri) full of ancient and archeological items. Bhimsagar, Hemsagar, Lohitsagar are large man-made lakes in Bahiri village. Bahiri Baro and Chhoto Math (large & small monastery) structures can also be seen (pictures below; source: A. Bhowmik).

8. Architectural Description

Architectural Style: Orissa ‘Rekha deul’ type temple
Site & Surrounding: Village with rural agrarian character with settlements
Plan: Rectangular in plan, aligned in E-W direction, facing east.
Façade: With about 600 mm plinth, two sides of the entrance are adorned with Terracotta plaques depicting lotus. It is a temple of evolved Rekha type with a Jagomohana (pirha deul) in the front. Stone figures of leaping lions embellish the ‘rahapaga’ of the temple on four sides. Other than the ‘ratha’.s and ‘paga’.s, the ‘shikhara’ is much austere. The Jagamohana is more elongated while the main ‘deul’ is shorter compared to the Puri Sri Jagannath temple. The ‘antarala’ is quite prominent.

Decorative Feature: Pendants from the horizontal bands, amalaka and the door-top
Building material and: Laterite stone and burnt brick
Construction techniques Brick masonry

Two to three photographs at least to show the architectural style and condition.

9. Associated Intangible values It is said that numerous antiques from the Sunga & Kushana period were unearthed when Bhimsagar was being dug. Modern historians believe Bahiri was a vital hub of trade and commerce along the Bengal coast even before Christian/ Common Era.

10. Condition Description

Sign of Distress: Not known
Structural Problem: Not known
Additions & alterations: Not applicable
Repairs and Maintenance: Adequate
Threats to the property: None



Photo: Arindam Bhowmik

11. State of Conservation

Good/Fair/Showing Signs of Deterioration Good
 Advanced State of Decay/Danger of Disappearance None

12. Other Remarks

It is a State protected monument; **Sl. No. S-WB-76.** Restoration and conservation was carried out by Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Information & Cultural Affairs Dept., Govt. of W.B. during 2015-2017.

13. Grade

Archaeological: A
Architectural: B
Historical: A
Associational: A
Social/Cultural: A



Photo: Arindam Bhowmik



Final Grading: I/IIA/IIB/III

I

14. References

- i. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dihibahiri>
- ii. Arindam Bhowmik, https://www.midnapore.in/tourism_bahiri.html
- iii. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_State_Protected_Monuments_in_West_Bengal
- iv. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/next-weekend-you-can-be-at-bahiri/cid/1653609>
- v. <https://uttarbanglaparjatan.com/midnapore>

Reference notes

Maps/plan/Drawings



: Bahiri Jagannath Temple/ Bada Deul [Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jagannath_Deul_temple_at_Dihi_Bahiri_under_Purba_Medinipur_district_in_West_Bengal_02.jpg]



Signage at Bahiri Bara Deul site



Bahiri Jagannath Temple and Bhimsagar lake

Lister Name Suchandra Bardhan
Address Kolkata
Date of Listing 14.02.2021

Reviewer Name Gopa Sen
Address Kolkata



Field photographs taken in February 2021









Reference foreword

Secondary data are obtained from historical charts, maps, literatures for the specific sites, photographs available in the cyberspace and other historical records as much as available. Site visit and verification of the sites is the next stage that is still pending due to the COVID-19 crisis in the country. Third stage i.e. comparison of different references for assessment of information correctness has been performed satisfactorily as far as the secondary study materials are concerned. These need to be finally corroborated through field verification.

References:

- i. Census of India 2011, Series 20 Part XII A, District Census Handbook Purba Medinipur, Directorate of Census Operations, W.B.
- ii. District Action Plan for Disaster Preparedness :Purba Medinipur District (2016) National Disaster Management Authority, GoI.
- iii. J. Rennell's map 1767 (ancient Khejuri)
- iv. Pradhan, M.K., Khan, A. & Chatterjee, S. Economic significance of colonial invasions in Khejuri-Hijli coastal sector of Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal: A geographical review. *J Geol Soc India* **88**, 753–762 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12594-016-0543-1>.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs12594-016-0543-1>
- v. Ghosh Binoy, Paschim Banger Sanskrititi (in Bengali), Vol II, pp. 147-152, Prakash Bhawan, 1978.
- vi. Different cyber sources as mentioned under respective sites, including Govt. official websites, Google map information, Google map photographs, Wikipedia, Vlogs/youtube, research blogs etc.



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