

## INDIA

# Brihadishvara Temple, Thanjavur

### II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1987

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Archaeological Survey of India, Janpath  
Person in charge: Director General  
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### II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C ii, iii

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows (new):  
“The Brihadisvara temple, Thanjavur, the earliest temple following the norms of the Agamas, represents the high water mark of Chola architecture in South India. The temple symbolises the unique architectural, sculptural engineering, socio-economic and cultural levels achieved by the Chola King in a single monument.”  
The report proposes a re-nomination: inclusion of the fortification wall and the moat to enhance the overall appearance. The extension should also include Brihadisvara temple, Gangaikondacholapuram and Airavatesvara temple, Darasuram.

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The demarcation line and buffer zone are adequate.
- The site boundaries should be revised, when the Government acquires the fortification wall and moat.

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- Values and authenticity/integrity well preserved.
- No changes to the authenticity/integrity.



### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Overall management made at the local, regional and national levels by three agencies. The above arrangements are considered sufficient.
- Actual legal and traditional protection is sufficient.
- Management plan: In the absence of a concrete management plan, the property is managed, through management cooperation and agreements.
- To preserve the values in future: existing arrangements will continue.

#### Present State of Conservation

- All ancient outlets revived to prevent water stagnation.
- Property conserved and chemically cleaned.
- Pradakshina brick floor has been entirely remade.
- Present state of conservation good.

#### Staffing and Training Needs

- 17 staff not sufficient to monitor the site; more staff required.
- The staff need training in the latest scientific conservation techniques and equipments.

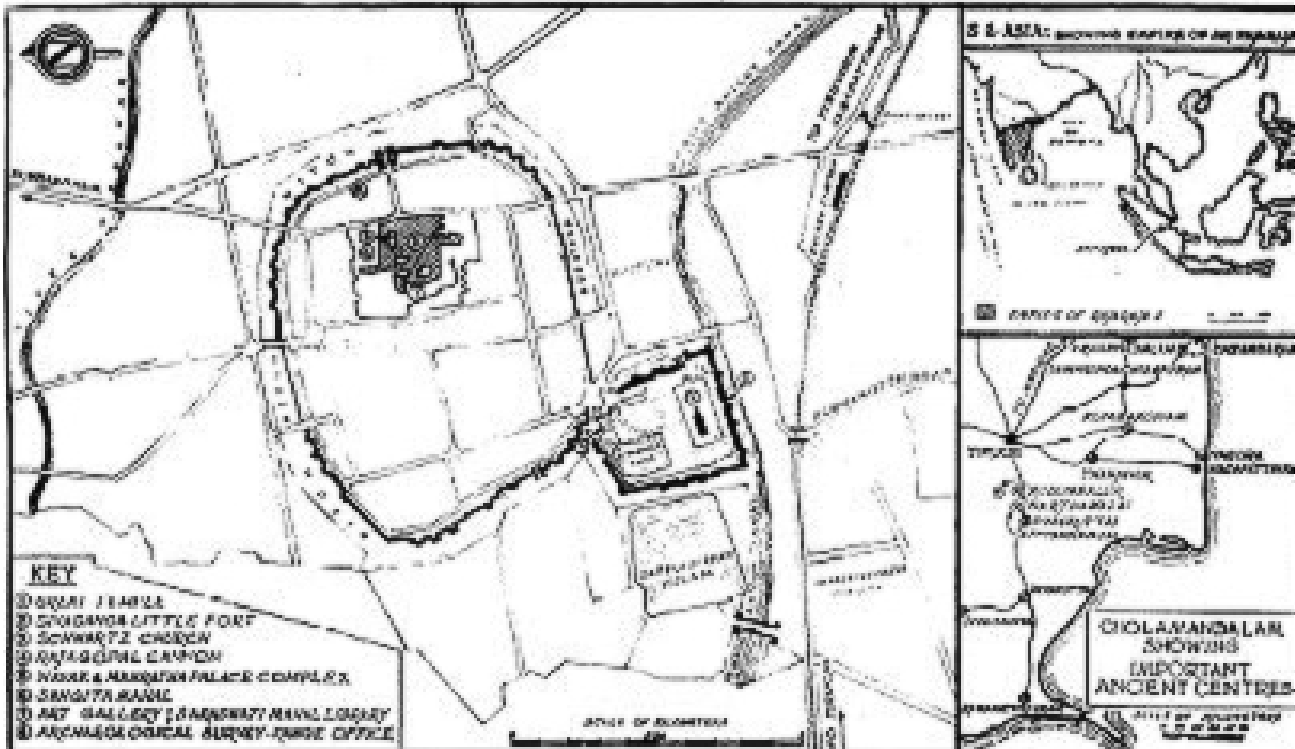
#### Financial Situation

- Sources of funds from Central Government.
- Funding is not considered sufficient: need of allocation of Rs.10 lakhs for conservation and Rs.20 lakhs for conservation subject to identification of the works.
- \* International Assistance from WHF: none.

#### Access to IT

- No computers, no email or Internet access.
- No use of GIS.

# THANJAVUR: OLD FORTIFICATIONS & SRI RAJARAJESVARAM



Plan of the Old Fortifications of Thanjavur

## Visitor Management

- No visitor statistics due to continued worship in the temple.
- Various facilities: basic amenities, plus parking, protection notice board, cultural notice board, location map, etc.
- Needed facilities: benches in garden, additional drinking water facilities and toilets, signage, audio-visual, landscaping, coffee-shop, interaction centre, illumination of monument.
- Plan for public use: no real plan, but committee exists.
- Communication WH values through: photos exhibitions, competitions, printing matters.
- Educational programmes: no educational framework for school children, they are involved in celebrations and other awareness raising programmes. Lectures delivered in schools/universities on request.
- Role of the inscription to the List of World Heritage: public awareness, increased number of visitors, celebrations, NSS camps for school students.

*"The property lies in the heart of town and residential colonies have developed around it. Demolition or reconstruction of these buildings will affect the temple foundation and also the view of the temple."*

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- The property lies in town-centre and residential colonies has developed around it. Demolition or reconstruction of these buildings will affect the temple foundation and the view.
- An accretionary car structure near the Ganesha shrine should be demolished.
- Vegetation growth is seen all over the fortification walls which are decrepit in some areas. This adversely affects the ancient ambience of the temple complex.
- Heavy vehicular traffic causes vibrations and air pollution.

### Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan.
- Local officials attend to all emergency problems with the help of local authorities.
- Improvements needed: after acquiring the rampart and the moat they will be included in the buffer area and conservation works will be undertaken.
- Impact of urbanisation/illegal construction, increase in general vehicular movement may affect the property.

## State of Conservation of the World Heritage Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Measures adopted or planned: relocation of the temple car park and demolishing the accretionary structure, under way. The District Collector will be approached for diverting vehicular traffic around the property.



*View of Cracks in the Nandi Mandapa ceiling before restoration*

- Future actions under preparation: Perspective plan for conservation works (2002-07); prepared and approved. Relaying damaged brick floors, reorganisation of the temple museum and the photo gallery with colour blow-ups. Management plan preparation to control development and tourism pressure. Risk preparedness plan under preparation. More staff training and scientific equipment needed.
- Timetable for the implementation of the Plans: 5 years.

### \* *No State of Conservation Reports*

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- Monitoring system: dehumidifier installed in the painting chamber and tale glasses fixed on the ceilings of the mandapa cloister.
- Partners: the ASI, Hereditary Trustee and District authorities.
- Foreseen improvements: installation of CCTV for visitors movement surveyance. Burglar alarm to prevent theft of sculptures.

### Monitoring Indicators

- No indicators for monitoring.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Values: there has been no change in the authenticity or integrity of the monument since its inscription.
- Management and factors affecting property: property preserved and managed by the ASI at both national and local levels, through legal and traditional means. Main factor affecting property: deterioration and weathering due to climatic conditions, rank vegetations, new constructions and increase in vehicular traffic.