Session – II

History of Historical Building and Monuments in and around Chennai

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As you all know every building has its own History and like wise the Public buildings built by the British in Chennai City has now become historical monuments worthy of study. Since it has survived for 100 years it has good claim to be called historical monument.

Beautiful buildings like Spencers and Moore Market cannot be rebuilt. Thanks to the effort taken by the INTACH, Government and other Non Government bodies that the Senate House is back in form. There are many buildings like the Royapuram, Railway Station, National Art Gallery, Bharat Insurance building, Chepauk Palace Presidency College, Ripon building, Government Fine Arts College etc, that cry for restoration. It is up to the Government to restore these buildings to its former glory and it is the duty of the Citizen to see that no damage is done to these buildings.

In this paper I have listed a brief history of the Historical Buildings in and around Chennai in a chronological order. All the Buildings were designed by British Architects who served as Consulting Architects to the British Government. I have arranged it in the following order – Name of the building, period of construction, Name of the Architect, Design / style of the building, Present condition and the last unit is a comparative study of similar buildings in other British presidency towns.

Memorial Hall – 1860



- As thanks giving to God for saving Madras from the Revolt of 1857
- Designed by Colonel George Winscom and modified by Col. Horsley
- Classical style with Greek Overtones. Resembles temples in Greece. It is purer in form.
- Traces of deterioration. Now used for film shootings and sales. Hall if maintained well can be used for social gathering and conducting Lectures.
- Memorial Hall in Quetta was designed in 1905 by James Ransome in Indo – Saracenic.
- Victoria Memorial Hall in Calcutta was designed by Vincent Esch in1880

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Madras Museum - 1862



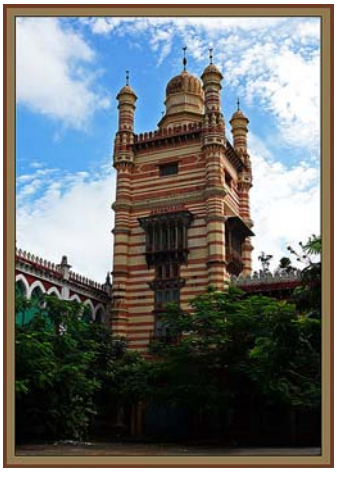
- To Preserve Geological specimen and archaeological artifacts
- Designed by Herny Irwin in Indo scenic style
- It is maintained well but several additions have taken place. The front view remains untouched.
- Prince of Wales Museum (Bombay) 1904 was designed by George Wittet. It has mixed element of Hindu Brackets. Mughal arches and European classical design.
- Indian Museum (Calculta) 1875) Italianate style and classical style.
- Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay 1862, Palladian work designed by William Tracey.
- Napier Museum Thiruvananthapuram by chisholm in Keralite and British Style.

Public works Department 1865



- Robert F. Chisholm
- Pure Saracenic style. The front facade has not changed but additions have spoilt the beauty of the building. Regular maintenance can prolong the life of the building.
- Bombay PWD building was built by Henry St. Clair Wilkins in 1869.

- **Board of Revenue – 1768**



- The first building was constructed in by Paul Benfield
- Later additions were done in 1870. by Robert F Chisholm
- It has a mixture of tropical Gothic and Indo Saracenic style. Consist of two blocks Humayan Mahal and Khalsa Mahal
- Humayan Mahal - close to Wallajab Road, and Khalsa Mahal facing the beach road. The building though in constant use still it lacks maintenance. The authorities concerned should take steps to prevent it from deterioration.

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Post and Telegraph office – 1884



- Designed by Robert F. Chisholm
- Saracenic style with projecting eaves in stone as in Bijapur. Arches and columns as in Gujarat.
- Inspite of fire accident it still remained to be a landmark. Though in use it needs proper maintenance by regular inspection.
- John Beg in 1909 designed Bombay Post Office in the style that existed in Bijapur
- Calculta G.P.O built in 1864 was designed by Walter Granville in classical style.
- In Luknow the GPO was designed by Henry V.Lanchester in 1928.

Victoria Public Hall / Town Hall – 1887



- Designed by Rober F. Chisholm but built by Namberumal Chetty in Romanesque style
- It is in a very bad condition and cannot be used any more. At present it is being renovated.
- Bombay Town Hall designed by Col. Thomas Cowper in 1820 in Neo – classical Greek Revival style.
- Calcutta Town Hall was designed by Col.John Garstin in 1815 in the classical style.
- Lahore town hall was designed by F.W.Stevens in Indo – Saracenic
- Town hall in Hyderabad was designed by Vincent Esch in the Rajasthani and Mughal style in 1913

High Court - 1892



- Design prepared by J.W.Brassington and later by Henry Irwin who completed it with the assistance of J.H. Stephens in Indo Saracenic style.
- It is well maintained.
- Bombay High Court designed by Col. James A Fuller in 1876. It has a mixture of Venetian Gothic and early English style.
- Calcutta High Court designed by Walter Granville in 1864 in Gothic Style.
- Hyderabad High Court was designed by Vincent Esch in 1914 using narow neck lotus petal rings as special features

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Bank of Madras – 1896



- Henry Irwin adopted styles from Col.Samuel Jacob. Constructor was Namberumal Chetty in Indo Saracenic style resembling Mughal structures of Fatehpur Sikri
- Condition of the building is fairly good. Regular maintenance can prolong the life of the building
- Chartered Bank in Calcutta was designed by Martin in 1906.
- Bank of India in Bombay was designed by Claude Battey in 1944
- State Bank of India in Bombay was designed by Gregson in 1918 in simple classical style with Indian elements

Connemara Library – 1896



- Designed by Henry Irwin and constructed by Namberumal Chetty in Indo Saracenic style
- It is well maintained and a lot of improvement has take place.
- Public Library (Calcutta was designed by C.K.Bobison in 1844.
- Bombay Library was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1874.
- Punjab Public Library designed by Wittet in Indo Saracenic in 1905.
- Reza library was designed by W.C. Wright in 1904 in Indo-Saracenic style.

National Art Gallery – 1909



- Henry Irwin designed this Gallery in Indo - Saracenic in a well orchestrated combination of Mughal, Hindi and classical elements. Main front echoes Buland Darwaza in Fatehpur Sikri.
- At present it has been closed to public. The ASI has taken up the work of restoration.
- Calcutta Art Gallery was designed by William Emerson in 1921.
- Baraoda Art Gallery was designed by Mant and later by chisholm in 1894.

Archives - Record Office - 1909

- Designed by G.S.T. Harris and built by P.Lognatha Muddaliar in Indo saracenic style

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- It is well maintained and a lot of facilities have been done to safeguard the records. Better facilities for researchers to carry out their research work. One more floor is added to the Library. Due to the Centenary celebration it has received a new face lift.

Ripon Building - 1913



- Designed by G.S.T. Harris was assisted by Loganatha Mudaliar in Classical style
- Looks good from out side but due to alterations and additions there are cracks which has to be cemented. It is still able to retain - G.S.T.Harris's "vision in white."
- Bombay Municipality office was built by F.W. Stevens in Oriental Gothic style.
- Bombay Municipal Corporation building was designed by John Adams in 1893 in Gothic style.

Royapuram Station - 1853



- Designed by William Adelpi Tracey
- Resembled like a Regency Mansion in a Quasi Classical style of the Renaissance Period.
- Put to minimum use gives a deserted look – a faint echo of its original handsomeness

Central Railway Station-1873



- Originally designed by George Hardinge and later additions by Robert F. Chisholm
- Originally in the Gothic Revival style with Itatianate and Hindu overtones Later additions of Chisholm was country towers in the sides and central clock tower in the middle.
- Fresh coats of paint and casual maintenance at regular intervals and full occupancy have prolonged the life of the building.
- Howrah station by Halsay Ricerdo in 1890 was of Romanesque Moorish style. Calcutta station 1859 was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
- Hyderabad railway station of 1914 in Indo – sarecenic was designed by Vincent Esch

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Egmore Railway Station – 1908



- Designed by Henry Irwin and built by Samynatha Pillai
- Indo Saracenic style with more Dravidian elements
- It is in good condition with a lot of facilities provided for the passengers.

Railway Head Office – 1922



- Designed by N.Grayson
- Built for the first time in India in reinforced concrete in an elegant fashion of classical and Dravidian style
- Well maintained but further additions should not mar the beauty of the building
- Bombay Central India Railway Office was designed by F.W. Steven's in pure Gothic Style.
- Lahore railway office was designed by James Ransome in 1905 – Indo – Saracenic.

Madras Medical College -1892



- School of Medicine in 1835 and later Medical College in 1851
- Designed by Henry Irwin in Indo Saracenic style
- The building still remains to be as it was in the past.
- Calcutta Medical College 1852 was designed by Col. John Garstin in Classical style.
- Lucknow Medical College 1912 was designed by Swinton Jacob in Indo – Saracenic style.

Government College of Arts & Crafts 1850



- School of Arts in 1850 later upgraded as College in 1961.
- Designed by Robert F. Chisholm in Indo-Saracenic style. First school of Arts in India and in Asia.
- Though it still functions it lacks proper maintenance. Library remained closed for a long time. Of late renovation work is going on.
- Sri J.J. Jamesdji Jeejeebhoy school of Arts in Bombay was designed by William Burges in 1866

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Senate House – 1864



- Designed by Robert F Chisholm
- Leaning towards the Byzantine with the blend of Indo saracenic
- Due to the effort of the INTACH this beautiful building of the by gone days has come back to life. Hall is used for conducting Lectures and Seminars.
- Convocation Hall inside Bombay University was designed by Sir Gibert Scott in true Gothic style untouched by the Hindu or Saracenic
- Calcutta Senate Hall 1864 was designed by P.W.D. Engineers in classical style.

Presidency College - 1870



- Designed by Robert F. Chisholm in pure Italian style derived from Renaissance Classicism
- Lectures and Seminars are held in the hall
- Mayo College of Mant at Ajmer was built in Indo - saracenic.
- Elipinstone College at Bombay was in Gothic style.
- Muir college 1886 in Aallahabad was designed by William Emerson in Indo - saracenic style

Law College 1884



- Designed by Henry Irwin in Indo Saracenic style. It appears in the same style as the High Court.
- It appears to be in good condition and it can remain to be the same if the students reserve the building without causing any damage.

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Madras University – 1913



- Designed by Edward Reid and Booth and the Contractor was Somasudaram in Indo – Saracenic style integrating itself with the Senate House
- Well maintained except for few alterations done in the interior
- Bombay University designed by Sir Gillbert Scott, in pure Gothic style in 1874.
- Calcutta University designed by Walter Granville in 1864 was designed in classical style.
- University of Allahabad was designed by Swinton Jacob in Indo saracenic style in 1887
- Lucknow univeristy 1910 was designed by Jacob in Indo saracenic style

Anna Engineering College - 1920

- Originated in 1858 as Government School of Survey in Fort St. George then transferred to Khalsa Mahal in Chapuk palace in 1859 as Civil Engineering College and then to Guindy in 1920.
- Designed by W.H. Nicholls consulting Architect and later by F.J. Wilson Chief Engineer.
- Classical style in Red Facade of exposed brick work with definitions in grey granite
- The building is full of life and extensively used and is also properly maintained
- Bihar Engineering College was designed by W.C. Wright in Indo - Saracenic in 1890.

General Hospital – 1890



- First building was built in 1690 and later extended in 1771 and further extended in 1859.
- Designed by Col. Patrick Ross, and later by John. Sullivan
- First Building was in Tuscan style
- The British constructed Hospital has been demolished and the new hospital was built during the reign of Miss. J.Jayalalitha when she was as Chief Minister in Hindu style.
- In Bombay Cama and Albless Hospital 1887 was designed by John Adam in Gothic style
- Zenana Hospital in Delhi was designed by Swinton Jacop in 1887.

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- Osmania General Hospital 1921 in Hyderabad was designed by Vincent Esch in Indo – Saracenic
- Jacob's K.G. Hospital Lucknow was built in Indo – Saracenic
- Albert hospital Kolhapur was master piece of Mant – 1878 Indo – Saracenic style.

Maternity Hospital – 1808



- Designed by Major General Gifford and constructed by P.S Ramaswamy Mudhaliar along .
- Masonry structure's inspiration was drawn from the architecture of the Himalayan region
- The hospital is in full use but not well maintained.
- The side block has been demolished and new block is under construction.
- Bombay Obstetric Hospital 1891 designed by John Adam in Gothic style.
- Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital in Calcutta was designed by Sudlow Ballardie and Thompson in International style.

Conclusion :

Buildings that survive from the past are fossils of civilization. For certain early cultures that left no written records or whose records have not been well preserved and accessible, monumental remains are the principal source of information.

Hence the present attempt has been made to conserve the Historical monuments of the British Raj in Chennai City.

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