

# INDIA

## Churches and Convents of Old Goa

### II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1986

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Archaeological Survey of India, Mini Circle, Goa  
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### II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C ii, iv, vi

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows (new):  
"The architects responsible for the construction of the churches at Old Goa looked for inspiration to the Italian architects, some of whom were had a touch of renaissance with Baroque confined to the interior sprang up. The church of St. Cajetan is modelled on the original design of St. Peter's church in Rome. The church of Bon Jesus with its façade, decorated with Ionic, Doric and Corinthian pilasters, shows the application of the Classical Order. The Se' Cathedral with its Tuscan exterior, the Corinthian columns at its portals, the raised platform with steps leading to the entrance, the barrel vault above the nave also reflect the Classic Order. The sculptural decorations in wood and woodcarvings in Baroque style adorns the altars."

*"The WH property is managed by legal arrangements, which are insufficient and need certain amendments. If incorporated to the existing laws, it will helping the better management of the property."*

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The demarcation line and buffer zone are adequate.

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/ Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- Values and authenticity/integrity maintained.
- Changes to the authenticity/integrity: due to the construction of a boundary wall in order to increase security. No changes from an archaeological point of view.
- Changes in the future: Due to the lack of co-operation with the ASI, religious authorities are undertaking many modifications within the premises. Those may change the integrity of the property.



### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The ASI needs co-operation from local authorities to enforce laws, in order for them to be properly implemented.
- Site protected by legal arrangements that are insufficient and which need amendments. If these are incorporated to the existing laws, they will help better the management of the site.
- Overall management made at the local level under the supervision of national authorities. The above arrangements are considered satisfactory.
- No Management plan, but special conservation and preservation zones have been created.
- Actions foreseen in the future: a court case is pending with respect to the ownership of the churches and convents, which have been declared as centrally protected monuments of national importance. Ownership of monuments has been changed without honouring the above notification. The case is still being argued.

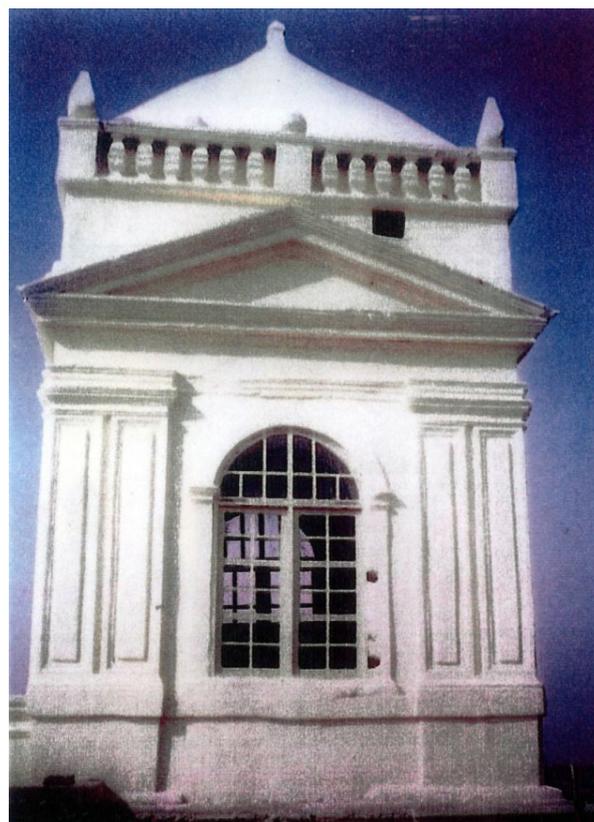
#### Present State of Conservation

- Due to conservation work and to the emphasis on maintaining the site's originality and integrity, no changes have occurred in the nature of the property.
- At present, the property is in a good state of preservation.



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Northern Bell Tower of St. Cajetan before restoration



© ASI

Northern Bell Tower of St. Cajetan before restoration

**Staffing and Training Needs**

- Staff total number: 74 Staff at both regional and local levels, sufficient to monitor the site.
- The staff needs training in conservation techniques, traditional methods of material use, woodcarving workmanship, mural preservation, etc.

**Financial Situation**

- Sources of funds from Central Government and special funds allocated after reviewing the works and requirements.
- Funding is sufficient.
- \* International Assistance from WHF: none.

**Access to IT**

- 3 sets of computers, with email and Internet access.
- No use of GIS.

**Visitor Management**

- No visitors statistics are available since the monuments do not charge entry, except for the Church of St Francis Assisi; entrance fees collected represent 600 to 700 visitors per day.
- Basic facilities available on site, plus publication sale counter, audio-visual media at the archaeological museum.

- Needed facilities: interpretation centre.
- No public use tourism/visitor plan. But this plan is essential.
- Communication of WH values through: brochure on WH sites distributed, resident and public involvement in cultural awareness programmes.
- Educational programmes: No educational programmes. Students are involved in celebrations and awareness raising programmes. Competitions are organised among various schools and aim to enhance the pupil's appreciation and pride towards their heritage.
- Role of the inscription to the List of World Heritage: visitors disseminate the importance and create awareness among the public.

**II.5 Factors Affecting the Property**

**Threats and Risks**

- Development pressure: the national highway n°4A cuts through the site; increased traffic creates higher atmospheric pollution; the recent construction of a railway station may hasten developmental activities in the surrounding areas; lack of parking; street vendors within the zone make the premises crowded and threaten the general atmosphere.

- Environmental pressure: air salinity may cause damage to the structure, wood, carvings, paintings, etc.
- Natural disasters and preparedness: earthquake, such as in 1994 that caused a few cracks in walls and ceilings.
- Tourist/visitor pressures: pilgrims stay within the premises and vandalise the entire area.

### Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan.
- Factors responsible for damages are tackled with the help of state government authorities. Others like capillary, saline actions, weathering, etc. are attended to by periodical inspections and further actions.
- Improvements needed: constant efforts to keep the core area free of any such activities.
- Impacts of factors: increased urbanisation and illegal constructions may affect the property.
- Measures adopted or planned: the State Government authorities will be approached for taking action. Some demolition orders have been issued and will be carried out in the near future.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- No monitoring system in place, nor planned.
- Partners: no external partners involved at present.
- Foreseen improvements: a good co-ordination effort between the State Government and the ASI would certainly improve the monitoring system.

### Monitoring Indicators

- No indicators.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Management and factors affecting property: better management of the property and protection at a national level through the implementation of Acts and Rules. Adequate manpower, trained personnel and funds are sufficient for maintenance.
- Future actions: a perspective plan for conservation works to be carried out during the 9<sup>th</sup> 5 year plan, has been prepared and approved.
- Timetable for the implementation of the Plans: 5 years.

### \* State of Conservation Reports

1999 Bureau, WHC-99/CONF.204//5 - WH Centre mission in January 1999 to develop a project proposal based on co-operation between the local authorities, Guimaraes (Portugal) and Brighton & Hove (UK) for submission to the Asia Urbs Programme. An independent expert report noted grave concern over damages caused to some of the monuments due to the poor restoration work carried out with inappropriate material in earlier years. The integrity and authenticity of the site would be seriously undermined if the planned project for the upgrading and extension of National Road No. 4 is implemented. The Centre, in close collaboration with the local ASI, prepared a project proposal for urban conservation and presentation, now pending prior to submission to donors. Subsequent discussions with the Portuguese (DGEMN) resulted in a commitment of collaboration between the Centre and DGEMN to carry out an inventory of the site as the first step in elaborating a more coherent conservation management plan.

“The Bureau requests the State Party to: (a) make a thorough evaluation of the conservation needs of each monument, including conservation training requirements, (b) review the existing site development plan with a view of enhancing the coherence in the relationship between the monuments and its historic urban context, (c) develop an integrated and multi-sectoral approach in the safeguarding and development of the site to ensure that public works to improve the network of necessary roads and utilities do not undermine the integrity of this World Heritage site. The Bureau requests the State Party to submit a report by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

1999 Committee, WHC-99/CONF.209//14 - Information that the project for the National Road No. 4 modified and current plan is to ensure that the urban development plan would not impact upon the WH values and morphology of the site. The authority requested the WH Committee to examine the new proposal. This new plan was transmitted to ICOMOS and ICCROM for comments. With regard to the project proposal prepared by the Centre for funding by European Commission's Asia-Urbs, Municipality of Panaji and the Panchayat of Old Goa are examining the project with the ASI and all relevant authorities. If approved, it should enable the provision of much needed technical support to elaborate an urban conservation plan. ASI is to submit international assistance request for a thorough evaluation of the conservation needs, conservation training, following the decision of the 23rd session of the Bureau.

(continued on page 49)



### \* State of Conservation Reports (continued)

“The Bureau expresses appreciation for the new plan for National Road No. 4 to ensure that public works do not undermine the site’s integrity. It requests WH Centre to continue assisting the authorities in addressing conservation needs of monuments and historic urban fabric. The Bureau encourages the local, regional and national authorities to continue to follow-up on the decision of the 23rd Bureau session, and submit a report by 15 April 2000 for examination by the 24th Bureau session.”