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ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN BHAIRAVA KONA ROCKCUT TEMPLE

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Abstract: This article represented to the cave temples at Bhairava kona. That rock caves during the time of the Pallavas and Telugu Cholas in the Nallamalla forests between Nellore and Prakasam districts. Similar ones are found in our Andhra Pradesh Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. But the caves here were built by Mahadevavarma and later kings during the Pallava period. Most of the rock treasures here are close to the Pallava structures in the Tamil Nadu region

Keywords: Bhairava Kona , Trimurth, gatekeepers, Nandiswara Vigneswara and Chandiwara the Pallava period. J. Dubrail, Raja Poreri, chitrakantha, Veerakanta, Chitrakantha” Trichinapolai, Dhalavanur, Mandagapattu, Dindi, Mundi, Brahma Sutra lingas. Shani Nagalingam, respectively. Rudranadeswaralingam, Rama Lingam, Naga Lingam , Bhargaleswaralingam, Sri Saila Mallikarjuna Lingam, Vakshaghathalingam, Ashtakal Prachanda Bhairava Lingam

INTRODUCTION

In Andhra Pradesh, the construction of hilltops as caves appears to be coming from the “Mauryan” period. The “Guntapalli Chaityagruhas” were built near “Eluru” in the “West Godavari” district. The “Andhra Satavahanas” accepted the Vedic religion and built many Chaitya caves on the seashore and donated them. Also “Mogulrajapuram” “Undavalli” near “Vijayawada”, and “Budduni Konda (Bojanna Konda)” near “Anakapalli”, some of these temples have large Viharas with Chaitya groups. This Bhairava Kona located in Ambavaram village near Udayagiri region is also built by molding the rock of the hill into caves. In the Nallamalla hills in Ambavaram village in Prakasam district, the stone was built by molding the stone in the midst of beautiful nature. It is 140 km away from Nellore town, 40 km away from Udayagiri, 40 km away from Ongoluk, 140 km away, Kadapa is 125 km away. . Historians have mentioned that the name Bhairavakona or Bhairavkonda was given to this area because of the idol of Bhairavamurthy found in this area. 8 stone caves were built on the hill on both sides of the Selayar called 'Sonayana'.. Here in the gruhalaya there

are idols of Trimurth, gatekeepers, Nandiswara Vigneswara and Chandiwara. Shiva Lingam is seen in Prathana Garbagriham. These rock caves are the most famous carvings of the rock caves in Mahabalipuram.

HISTORY:

The Nellore region was ruled by the Pallavas from the 6th century to the 13th century and later by the Telugu Cholas. Pallavas 350-590 AD. and the south-eastern Chalukyas from A.D. 629-640-In the 7th century, Nellore was ruled by the Rashtrakutas; And the third Vijayaditya and his vassals ruled Pandurangu. Chola Period: 907-1200. AD Parantaka-1 defeated the Cholas. The Pallavas migrated to the southern Andhra region and pioneered the style of building rock-cut temples like Mahabalipuram by Mahendravarman, the son of the Pallava king Simhavishnu. This area was discovered by A.H. Longharts, a historian in 1920. There are 8 stone caves on the western side of Bairava's statue on the rock that is resting to Selayeru. These caves seem to have been built in two phases. It can be said that the first four caves were built in the first phase and the remaining four caves were built in the later phase based on their construction style. The entrance of the first cave is on the north face and the remaining seven caves are on the east face. Many inscriptions are engraved in Bhairavakona. These inscriptions are said to be the Tamil "Grantha script" used during the Pallava period. J. Dubrail (Pondicherry) explained. These inscriptions were read by Sri Krishnamacharya, the government epigraphist of Tamil Nadu, and translated into Telugu. Among them, the king "Raja Poreri" and Govindha Poreri's granddaughter "Lokama" are engraved on the stone which belongs to the 9th century. It is known that these temples were built between the 6th century and the 10th century.

CAVE ARCHITECTURE – SCULPTURES



Caves Structures (cave 1 to 8(Left to Right))

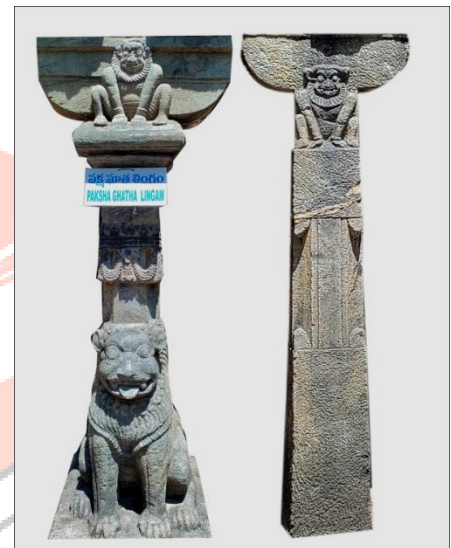
There are total 8 caves in Bhairavakona. (From North to South) Caves 1,2,3,4 have mandapam and only garbhagriha 5,6,7,8 four caves have two pillared mandapam. Medati cave entrance is removed from the north face of this cave Garba Griha is 5 ½ feet wide and 6 feet high. The outside of the cave is 11 feet long by 5 ½ feet

wide and has a welcoming pose Surya and Chandra idols outside the cave entrance. The outer wall of the cave is divided into four parts. The second cave is a little higher than the first and has only a garbhagriha without a verandah and the entrance faces east. This cave is 4 ½ feet square. The outside of the cave is 5 feet wide and 9 feet long. The third cave is five feet square and the verandah is ten feet long and seven feet wide. The fourth cave is incompletely carved and is the smallest cave of all, it is only four feet square and the front part of the cave is thirteen feet wide and 5 feet long. The fifth cave is above the fourth cave and has a six feet square garbhagriha with a verandah fifteen feet long and five feet wide. Outside this cave there is an Arda Mandapam. This Arda Mandapam is decorated with

four pillars in the Chola style of architecture. Above the pillars there is a patika with statues of dwarfs in a row and above them is a "kudu" carved in the Pallavala Maha Vallipuram style. In the center of the small lion arch is the statue of Nagaraja in high relief. Above this arch there is a row of lions. The sixth cave is five feet square almost like the fifth cave and has a garbagriha and four pillared Ardamandapam. Ardamandapam is 3 ½ feet wide and 12 feet long. As in the fifth cave, there is an arrangement of columns, but on the column capital, lion statues are found in relief. The seventh cave is the most complete and beautifully carved of all the caves. The garbagriha of this cave is 5 ½ feet square and is 15 feet long and 5 ½ feet wide including the front enclosure and ardamandapa. The four pillars in Ardamandapa are carved out of single stone. In this cave there are two "chitrakantha" pillars between the ordinary pillars at the ends of the ardamandapam. Dwarf idols are carved in the vasara on the pillars. Above them, parallel to the pillars, there are four "kudu" structures, in the last passage a row of lions is carved. Eighth Cave This cave is almost the same as the seventh cave. The Garbagriha of this cave is 5 feet square. Ardamandapa is built in front of Garba Griha. It is about 12 feet long and 5 ½ feet wide. Ardamandapam is similar to cave 7 but incomplete.

PILLARS

Two types of pillars are found in Bairavakona. The fifth and sixth caves have the same specimen and the seventh and eighth caves have the same type. The first pillars are decorated in the Chola style of architecture. Above and below the square there is an octagonal section in the middle above which are "Tadi" followed by "Kumbha" and in the capital there are "Veerakanta" and "Potika" sections. The pillars in the seventh and eighth caves are similar and are called "Chitrakantha" pillars. At the base of these pillars are seen lions. Above these lions there is a square sculptured Stamba "And a" section. The "Capital" section of the pillar is decorated with "Kumbha", Veerakanta", "Potika" parts are there and Kumbha



Types of pillars at Bhairavakona

THE GATEKEEPERS

The gatekeepers (Dindi, Mundi) idols on both sides of each cave entrance are carved, these idols have headdresses and bull's horns and heavy clubs are standing leaning on the ones that are not held by the hand. Such statues are found in many rock cut temples built by Pallavas, for example, Trichinapalai, Dhalavanur, Mandagapattu, etc. The gatekeepers outside this cave are 5 ½ feet high and have "Gada" carved in bifurcations. The gatekeepers have horns like bulls on their heads and thick hair, neck ornaments with big ear studs, bracelets and bangles on their hands. The gatekeeper on the left is holding the "gada" with his left hand and the gatekeeper on the right with his right hand. One hand is on the "Gada" and the other hand is in Apana Mudra. The gatekeepers in the second cave are also 5 ½ feet tall. The gatekeepers in the first cave are similar to the gatekeepers in the first cave, but there are no horns on their heads, they have a ribbon-like ornament on their foreheads, and they have a bracelet around their necks. The gatekeepers in the fourth cave are incompletely

carved and their posture is also different from that of the predecessor. The right hand gatekeeper in the sixth cave has a snake in his hand and snakes are also carved on the sides of both gatekeepers. The gatekeepers have different hair styles.

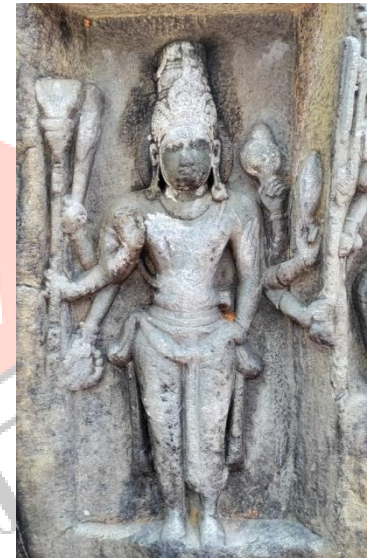


Gatekeeper Sculpture at cave number 1

Brahma - Vishnu - Maheshwara - Vigneswara - Nandiswara - Chandiswara

The idols of Vigneswara on the right and Chandiswara on the left are carved in high relief in the cave enclosure. In Garbha Griham there is Shiva Lingam made of black stone. Opposite to it are carved statues of Nandiswara, all of which are carved in the same rock. Many Shiva

lingams are also carved in the area. The Shiva Lingas here are almost Soma Sutra and Brahma Sutra lingas. Above the lingam are two crescent-shaped lines, Trireka (three vertical lines) and combining these two, Tripundram (Andhra Vrutam) is called the Brahma Sutra. Two half-crescent lines and two vertical lines above the lingam, combining these two, Tripundram (Andhra Vrutam) is called Somasutram. Almost all the lingas here are padma lingas i.e. the linga part and the yoni (pedestal) part are carved out of a single stone. The Shiva Lingam in the eighth cave is a “Bhana Lingam” (the lingam and the vagina are carved from separate stones). According to the form of lingam present in this days, the names of various famous Shivlingas have been given. Cave 1.”Shani Nagalingam”,2” respectively.Rudranadeswaralingam”,3.“Rama Lingam”, 4. “Naga Lingam” ,5.“Bhargaleswaralingam”, 6.” Sri Saila Mallikarjuna Lingam” ,7. “Vakshaghathalingam” ,8. “Ashtakal Prachanda Bhairava Lingam”



shiva kesava sculpture



Eight Hands Nataraja Sculpture

Beside the gatekeepers of the first, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth caves. Brahma on the right and Vishnu on the left. And outside the small cave adjacent to the first cave there are also Brahma Vishnu idols. The Brahma statue at the first cave is 3 feet tall with three heads crowned and four arms. One of the right hands holds an Abhaya mudra and the other a rosary while the left hand holds a Varada mudra and a noose in the other hand. Vishnu statue is also 3 feet tall Vishnu statue also has four arms one hand holding abhaya mudra the other hand holding pragyapachakra left hand one hand holding varada mudra and other hand holding cone and crown on the head. The idols of Brahma and Vishnu are about 3 feet tall. Apart from the crown of three heads, he has four arms with anger. Brahma Vishnu is

also found at the fifth cave. Brahma wears a crown and has four arms.

Similar to the first cave, there is a club-like weapon in the back left hand.

The Vishnu statue in the sixth cave is similar to the first, but the Brahma statue has an urn in its left hand behind. In the seventh cave there are Brahma and Vishnu who live in the fifth cave. In the eighth cave there is a chamber instead of Vishnu's Abayahastam

Prabhamandalas do not bow to the deity idols in the Pallava caves. There are idols of Chalukya deities. They are here for Hariharanadu and the semi-sculptural idols next to the gatekeepers. On the other bank of Selayeti, facing west, there are sculptures of Harihara Nataraja. These are known to have been carved in the 9th century. Harihara statue has eight arms. He is wearing earmuffs. Right (Shiva) holds Abhayamudra, Sword, Akshamala and Parasula in four hands respectively. On the left side, he holds "Kati Hasta Mudra" in four hands, a cone, a wheel, and a mace on his head. Adjacent to this is the sculpture of Nataraja Arda. Nataraja is also like Hari Hari wearing eardrums and holding eight hands and carrying weapons. Nataraja's robe is lined and the right four hands hold Abhayamudra, Damaru, Shulama and Khatwngalam respectively. He holds Gajahastamudra, Pashapasha and various weapons in his left hands respectively and no snake is wrapped around his waist. The moon is on Siras. In addition to these, there is a sculpture of Mahesha Arda behind the Shivalinga in the fourth cave, which is similar to the Mahesha statue in the Elephanta Caves. It has three faces like Brahma, the right face is like a flame coming from the mouth, the front face is happy and the left face is like holding a head of scriptures.

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