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The Captivating Gothic Architecture Of The Malwa Region

St. George Church, Hoshangabad(NarmadaPuram)

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Abstract: Church buildings in India are an important pedigree of social identity and continue to have a consort presence in public life. Concurrently religious practices have evolved, and it has become ostensible that church buildings represent a religious heritage and, equally importantly, a historical heritage. church buildings play an indispensable role in the urban and social structure of the town and surrounding landscape. These church buildings are provenance of great pride not only for the fellowships but also for the wider local community. The church building in India possesses rich culture, and built heritage, and includes many magnificent churches, monuments, and temples. Most of these churches are world-famous and constructed way back in the 17th century and are the best examples of Manuline and Gothic architecture. These churches have very intricate detailing and ornamentation reflecting the past and playing an important role in shaping the community to know about the ancient culture, way of life, architecture, level of development, building techniques, and use of material, art, and other aspects of the society of a particular period. The rich heritage structures are on the verge of deterioration and alarms for effective management.

*Index Terms-*Diocese, Façade, Bell Tower, Rearward, Gothic.

I. INTRODUCTION

St. George Church, NarmadaPuram



The St. George church¹ is situated near Sadar Bazar, Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram) district of Madhya Pradesh. This church building is under the possession of the Diocese of Nagpur, Church of India. The church of India organization of Anglican churches of India, the Church of India (CIPBC)² refers to the church of India, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon.

The church was built in the year 1805³, After the permission of Queen Victoria of Britain, the then governor-general started its construction. The responsibility of construction was entrusted to a British architect and artisans from India were selected for the work, it took seven years of hard work and unmatched workmanship to enable St. George church to come across this magnificent form.

This church building was supervised by several governor generals in the past, and the then-local administration took all the responsibility for construction. Perhaps it was this rigorous monitoring that made the church wall so strong that after 200 years of construction, earthquakes⁴ tremors occurred in Hoshangabad⁵ in 2002 and 2004, but the walls withstood them.

It is one of the elderly buildings of the colonial era in Madhya Pradesh, After Hoshangabad a church was built in Pachmarhi⁶. According to the church Bishop in charge, Rev. Santosh Sagar this church building is incomparable architecture as it was magnificently built 2 centuries ago.



It is one of the oldest buildings of the British era of Madhya Pradesh, which now comes under the Diocese of Nagpur, Hoshangabad a church that was built in Pachmarhi in 1814. According to the bishop of the church Rev. Santosh Sagar, unmatched architecture is seen in the church, as it was magnificently built two centuries ago.

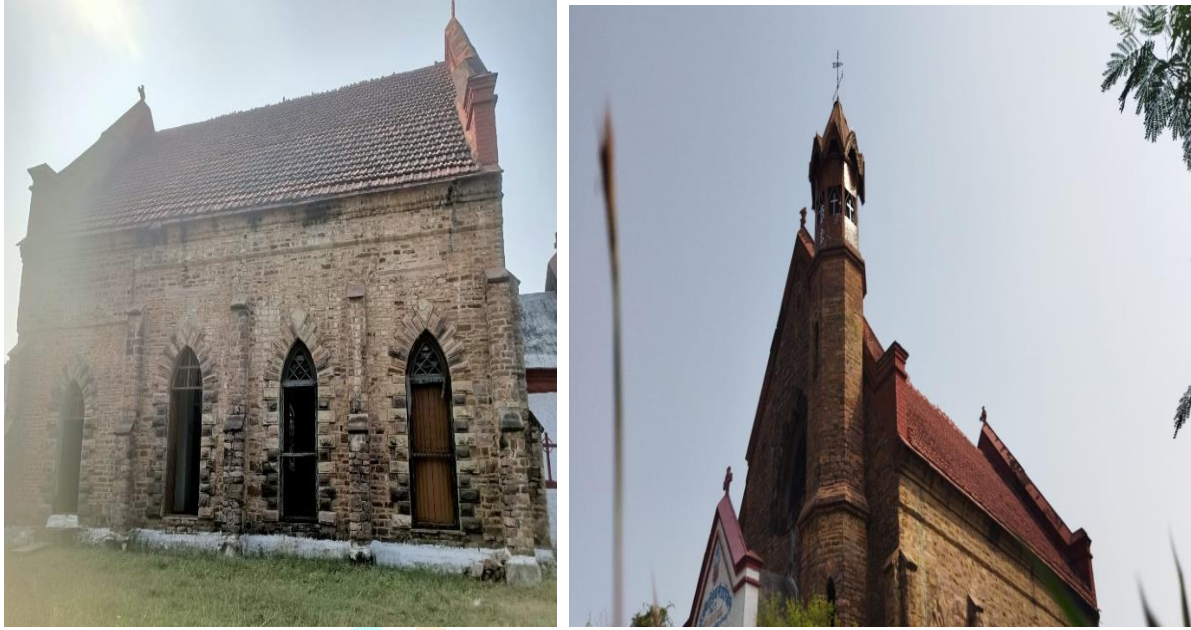
The Church of St. George is undoubtedly the most important and impressive of the lot as it is so finely made up of stone bricks, that the church reaches a height of 55 feet, with amazing artworks found within its atmospheric interior. To this day, the church building acts as an important pilgrimage site and is one of the highlights of any visit to the Malwa⁷ region of Madhya Pradesh.

Set in one of the most beautiful settings imaginable ranges of the Malwa region, the Church of the Assumption lies in the greenery beauty of Satpura⁸-Vindhyan central Indian forest, with the Julian Alps towering behind it. Built towards the beginning of the 19th century, the lovely little Gothic church is decorated with fine frescoes.

Boasting an incredibly ornate and intricately designed facade, this amazing architecture almost seven years to complete. One of the oldest churches in Madhya Pradesh, the small Gothic masterpiece exhibits lots of fabulous spires arch doors and windows, and an elegant bell tower manifesting the glorious architecture of the colonial era.

Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful churches in Madhya Pradesh state, St. George⁹ is an architectural masterpiece with incredible artworks that enhance the heritage of the central Indian state.

Main Building-



The church building is exhibiting the Indo-Gothic style of architecture. It is situated in an area of 100* 40 square feet.

The following are the dimensions of the building: -

- Length -50 feet
- Breadth-40 feet
- Height- approx.55 feet

The building has a capacity to accommodate 50-60 at one time. The church building is made up of stone bricks held together by a strong mixture of perhaps clay, it has a roof ceiling of wood, which still holds an upper segment of the building fiercely.

The church building has a big entrance, and an arch door, and the borderline of the arch door is designed by the different pieces of stone running through the front of the gate.

The entrance portion is supported by two pairs of mini stone pillars running in the Northern-southern direction.

Façade of Church Building-



The significant front of the church building is in the west direction with a bell tower attached to it on the right side. It has an entrance door of 10 feet, the layout of the entrance door bears the design of stone bricks placed in such a way that it gives giving pleasant configuration. The pairs of two small supporting pillars are located in the north-south direction giving strength to ingress architecture. The façade also has a stained-glass window with the absence of glasses of rouleaux triangle shape, carved up into a design of floral segmentation.

Rearward View of Church Building-



The rearward architecture of church buildings possesses a complete perspective view as far as architecture is concerned. The church building is made up of stone brickwork combined together, in such a way that it narrates the fascinating engineering of the colonial period.

The central part of the rearward façade arch-shaped window is constructed and outlined by stonework but without stained glasses, on inquiry, it was stated by in in-charge priest that initially the church building has

stained glass but with time no stained glasses are present to date. This window is placed between two columns of pillars.

Sideward Façade of Church Building-



The sideward façade of the building is quite appealing, it unveils the perseverance of four long windows, their excellent architecture, and the amazing configuration of stone bricks on the frameworks of all windows. The sideward façade is notable for its plainness and simplicity. It has the sumptuous architecture of 4 windows. Each window is separated by a column of pillars. Three pairs of pillars in a north-south direction and two pairs of side pillars running parallel to each other bestowing vigorous support to the building. The contour view of the building exhibits an amazing view and the stonework gives it a pleasant scenic glimpse. The side appearance of the hip roof of tiles, and the supporting column pillars provide an astonishing blend of the architecture of the colonial British era.

Bell Tower-



It usually sits at the top of a church structure rising upwards from its roof. The bell tower is also referred to as 'campanile'. It is a captivating piece of architecture found in this church. It is absent in other church buildings of Malwa and the Bundelkhand Region. It enhances the structural beauty of the church building. It works as a very tasteful addition that is manifesting a very distinct impression on any passer-by.

The bell tower of St. George's church is an attached structure on the west-right side of the church building, made of the same material as that of the church building. The top part of the tower possesses a small reticulated chamber revealing a design cross shape in between the reticulated area. The bell is located in this chamber.

The approximate height of the bell tower measures around 60 feet from the surface. The bell is attached to an iron chain that runs from the bottom to the top of the tower. The tower is a double story separated by a column of the hexagonal stone structure. At the foundation of the bell tower, a small elongated arch-shaped door was constructed which enables the entry of a single person to ring the bell. It also possesses two small arched-shaped windows at each story which intensifies the look of the tower.

Conclusion-

The development of India's conservation movement has largely been fueled by this architecture and by a handful of homegrown initiatives but in the sustenance of this colonial Architecture. Taken as a whole, India's cultural heritage may be the richest in the world, but the realization especially in Madhya Pradesh that it is a massive asset that requires management has yet to be fully appreciated.

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