



Heritage Conservation Mapping for Bangalore fort & Precinct

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT Bangalore fort built by Kempe Gowda the founder of Bangalore city in 1537. It was built in mud but in 1557 it got constructed with granite stones.

Fort has strong historical importance since it has witness of governance of different emperors & frees India after British Raj. Unfortunately this monument of historical importance is ignored & most of its part has been demolished. Only one gate named Delhi Gate out of nine large gates has remained which is very tiny part of massive fort.

This paper work elaborates conservation mapping of the different heritage structures of Delhi gate & precinct which needs to be conserve.

Background

The name Bangalore stems from Bengaluru, in a reference to it in a Ganga inscription, circa 890 AD., found near the Begur temple, begur. Kempegouda, a feudatory of the Vijayanagar empire, built and fortified the city in 1537 AD., and gave it its name. The city was leased to the Mysore King Chikadevaraya by the Mughals, in 1689 AD. He expanded the existing fort to the South and built the Sri Venkataraman temple within its boundaries. Hyder Ali secured Bengaluru as Jagir in 1758, further expanded, and strengthened it by 1761 AD.

Lord Cornwallis captured the fortified city in 1761 AD. but handed it back to Tipu Sultan a year later as per the Srirangapatna Treaty.

The original fort was oval in plan, with round bastions and huge gateways at important places Delhi Bagilu (Gate) and Yelahanka Bagilu in the North, Ulsur Bagilu in the East, Kanakanahalli Bagilu and Mysore Bagilu in the South and Kngeri Bagilu in the West. Remnants of these are still in existence by a dry moat. Only this part of the fort now remains intact, consisting of a dungeon and a small Ganesha temple. The three successive gateways here, linked the royal enclosure to the civilian area. The granite walls are sloping with beautiful stucco carvings. A tablet embedded on the wall indicates that this was where Lord Cornwallis breached the fort, when he took possession of it. The dungeon bears witness to the confinement of Sir David Baird and other Englishmen, prior to 1785 AD on a tablet placed here.



Historic Highlights

Bangalore Fort was originally built by Kempe Gowda & founder of Bangalore & Mud Fort. It was converted into stone by Haider Ali in 1761. It was captured by Army of the British East India in 1791. Only Delhi gate of fort presently exists on Krishnarajendra

Road. Also fort has lost its military significance. The fort remained as a military store of the British for long. This became British's main ammunition supply store for troops located outside Bangalore. David Baird was imprisoned here by Tipu Sultan. Inside temple there is Ganesha temple built by Kempe Gowda.

Holding fort in a swamp of callousness

Presently Fort has totally lost its identity.

The fort stands out as a decrepit symbol—one of ignorance and neglect.

Most people, who stand opposite the fort waiting for buses, do not even know that there is a heritage site right behind them. Some think it may be some BBMP structure,

Most of the vendors who sell their goods along the fort wall don't know the historic importance of the fort. They have made holes with nails to hang their goods.

Hospital Entry near to Fort, Bus stand & vending activities make the area overcrowded. These activities are the reason for the vanishing of the fort's existence.

Roads beside fort are not maintained, All garbage is spread over the street only.

Surrounding area is dominated by unhygienic conditions, Large hoardings near hospital & traffic congestion.

Inside the fort it is clean & maintained by the archaeological department of India.

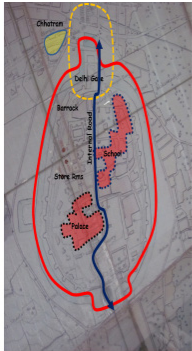


Evolution of Bangalore

Initially there were palace, school, store rooms & barracks

inside the fort area. Out side fort & along the Mysore road there were two chhatrams & church. We can see intersecting road(highlighted in blue color) passing through fort.

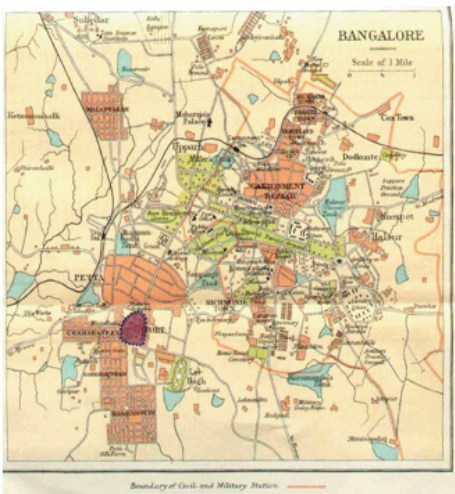
Evolution of Bangalore



Location of different activities



Map of Bangalore Fort-1791

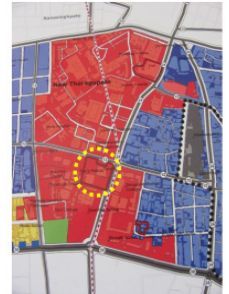
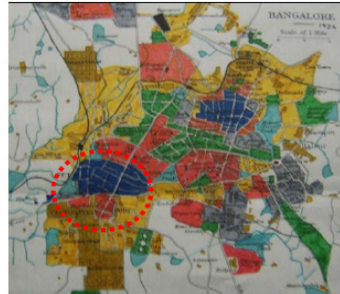


Bangalore map 1924

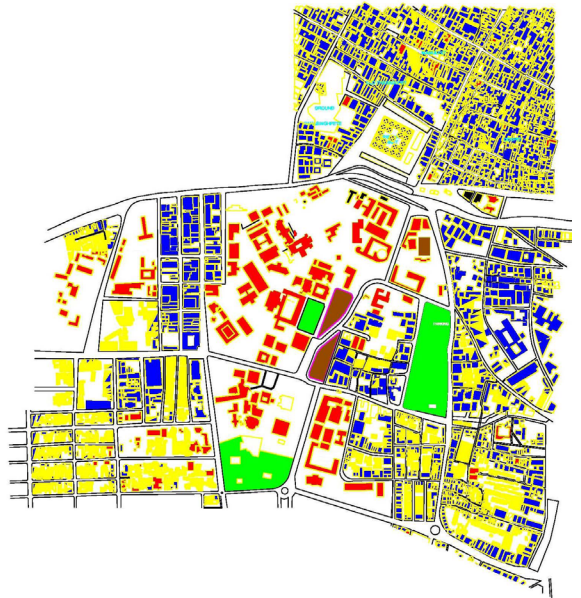
Refer Bangalore map 1924. Till that time city had sprawl on north eastern direction of fort area. The area named PETTA (left side of sampangi lake) was the actual city with-in walls and is now called the old city area (Avenue road, Chikpet area)

Land use Maps surrounding fort

- 1. Land use in 1924
- 2. Land use map in 2012



Surrounding land use fort (Delhi gate) is changed from residential to public amenities over the years during 1924 to 2012.

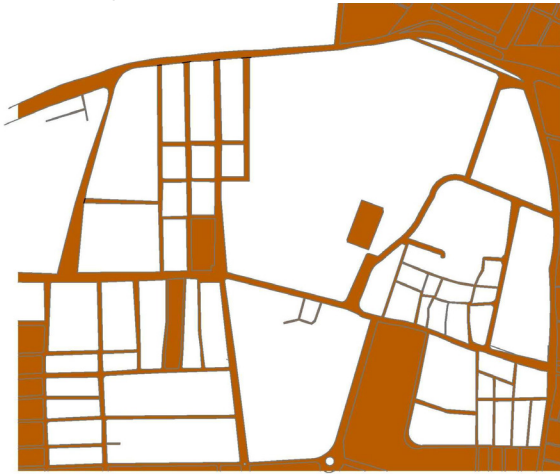


Existing conditions (land uses) surrounding fort area Figure ground map.



Surrounding area has become fully commercial. Dense fabric is found in commercial areas whereas public area adjacent to remain of fort is less dense. Buildings adjacent to fort has become public amenities But overall dense fabric of built up is seen.

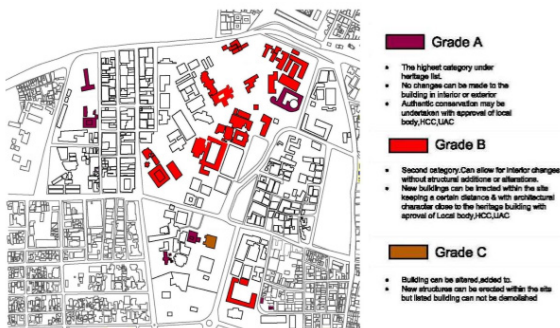
Surrounding street pattern.



Structures of historical importance with their different



styles in architecture



Observations & Suggestion

British architecture style is prominent. It is not listed in heritage site or zone. It is conserved & maintained properly.

Mughal style architecture is seen almost vanished in fort area.

Roman style exists due to two churches. 1. St. Joseph 2. St. Luke's church. St. Joseph church is only cyprus church within precinct. Both churches are conserved properly These

churches are not listed in heritage site.

Venkatswamy temple is from 15th century built by Chik-kadevraja Wadiyar. It has gone through lots of alteration & addition. This temple need to be conserve.

Shown structures in map should be preserved under different grades.

Tiny remain of fort , tipu's armoury, summer palace which is in Indo Islamic style need to be conserve under grade A.

British architectural style buildings which are part of Minto Hospital, Vicoria hospital etc need to be conserve under grade B.

Venkateshwara temple , kalasipalya need to be conserve under grade C.

Reference-

1. City of Bangalore, Muncpal Handbook 1931, City Municipal Council 193.
2. Mythic Society Library, Bangalore.
3. Bangalore Fort, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangalore_Fort [Jan 2016]