

THE BUILDINGS OF THE HOLKAR STATE

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The Native state in the central India Agency under the Resident at Indore, lying between the (210 22' and 2603' and 740 30' and 780 511; E) with an area of 9500 square miles, including an isolated pargana of Nandwani which lies geographically in Rajputana. It is bounded on the north by Gawalior state; on the East by the states of Dewas and Dhar and the Nimar district of the central provinces' on the south by the Khandesh district of the Bombay presidency; and on the West by the states of Barwani and Dhar. The state takes its name from its capital, originally a small village of Indreshwar of Indore, which was first raised to place of importance in the eighteenth century, and after 1818 A.D. became the permanent seat of the Holkar family.¹ Malhar Rao-I (the founder of the State) was one of the gems of the Maratha Empire who learnt his lessons of 'Maharashtra Dharam' from the Peshwa Bajirao I. Malhar Rao-I was born on 16th March, 1693 A.D in a 'Dhangar' family. His ancestors resided in Mathura from where they went to Chittor, from Chittor they migrated to Aurangabad from where to the village of Hol, on the Nira river in Phatan pargana. Thus the family previously known as 'Virkar' came to be known as Holkar.²

Architecture during the times of Holkars

Ahilya Bai was considered as the fountain head of Architecture of Holkar state. The development of Architecture during the reign of Ahilya Bai was extraordinary. In the 11th and 12th Century A.D. Malwa was headed by the Parmar rulers. The famous centre of Arts and Architecture of

¹ The Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol XIII, Secretary of state for India in Council, Oxford, 1908,pp. 333

² Malcolm, John, Memoirs of Central India, vol.1,London,1823,pp.145

Parmar rulers were Hinjalagarh, which also falls in the territory of later Holkar rules. Temples and forts constructed at the Hinjalagarh, Un, and Bhojpur became the foundation stone of Holkar's Architecture.³ Forts constructed during the times if Mughals became an inspiration for the Holkars. Marathas came from the Maharashtra therefore their style of construction bore a Deccani style. Holkar state Architecture should be called a mixture of Rajput, Maratha and Mughal style. Rajput style is dominating in their Architecture due to one reason, because most of the Artisans came from Rajasthan, therefore, it is obvious that they would incorporate their art and style in it.⁴ Architecture during the reign of Ahilya Bai can be divided into three main broad categories.

- 1) Royal construction- palaces and cenotaphs
- 2) Religious construction- Temples
- 3) Public works- Ghats (banks) at the sides of the rivers, Dharamshalas (guest houses), and water tanks.

Ahilya Bai's ruled from the city of Maheshwar, Capital of Holkar state, that's why majority of her Public works and religious construction was done at the Maheshwar and other places. She was very famous for her charity, and she had also constructed the religious temples. Guest houses and Ghats all over the country.⁵

Royal construction of Holkar kings

Among the royal constructions of Holkars, at Indore Cenotaphs, Rajbada and Lal Bagh Palace acquires the prominent place in the field of Architecture.

(A) Cenotaphs

Ahilya bai started the new tradition of construction of Cenotaphs in the memory of the deceased royal persons. On 20th May 1776 A.D. Subedar Malahar Rao Holkar died in Alampur. In his memory Ahilya Bai Holkar and ordered to construct a cenotaph and construction was started in 1780 A.D. She

³ Ahilya Smarika, Khasgi trust, Indore, 1982, pp. 12

⁴ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1922, pp. 25

⁵ The Indore State Gazetteer, Vol. III by L.D Dhariwal, Holkar Govt. Press India, 1913; Dube. R. Mashewar ka Mahatva. Ahilya Smarika, 1993, p. 33

inaugurated the cenotaphs at Chhatribagh on 26th May 1786 A.D.⁶ from this point a new chapter in the Indian history of Architecture was started in the Malwa and particularly in Indore. Construction of Cenotaphs became a tradition in Holkar dynasty which continued till the last days of Holkar reign. In the 18th and 19th century A.D. Maratha Architecture of Malwa developed a new style called “Chhatris” which is based on the ancient Hindu Temple Architecture of India.⁷ Holkar dynasty Cenotaphs at Indore can be divided into three groups- Two groups together at Chhatri Bagh and another group lying at Krishnapura near Khan River.

Cenotaphs at Chhatribagh

In 1754 A.D. chhatribagh was made habitable where we can now see the cenotaphs of Holkar family.⁸ Cenotaphs at the Chhatribagh can be divided into two groups.

First group

First group of cenotaphs at chhatribagh had the cenotaphs of following rules and royal persons of Holkar family.

- a) Malhar Rao Holkar
- b) Male Rao Holkar
- c) Khande Rao Holkar
- d) Tukoji Rao (I)
- e) Malhar Rao Holkar (I)
- f) Tara bai Holkar
- g) Snehalata Raje
- h) Indira bai Holkar

⁶ An inscription written outside the Cenotaph at Chhatri Bagh

⁷ Mahashabde D.K. chattri Sthapathya ka Apritam Udharana Bule Sarkar ki Chattri Indore; Ahilya Smarika 1979, p. 36

⁸ Mahashabde D.K., Ahilya Smarika, 1979, p.36

First five cenotaphs; Malhar Rao, Male Rao, Khande Rao, Tukoji Rao and Malhar Rao I, are constructed in the southern area, while rest of the cenotaphs are Constructed in the northern area of chhatribagh, Mortuary of snehalata and Indira bai are the recent ones.⁹ Southern area has a double storied entrance gate which was constructed in the reign of Devi Ahilya Holkar. However the northern area also have entrance gate, but it is mere an extension of the southern area. All the cenotaphs are constructed facing towards the north direction except the mortuary of Snehalata Raje which is southern faced constructed in 1925 A.D.¹⁰ North side of the northern area of Chhatri Bagh there lays only three cenotaphs. Gate of these cenotaphs is facing towards west and looks very artistic. In this campus cenotaphs of Tukoji Rao (I) and Malhar Rao (II) are constructed facing towards south, whereas cenotaphs of Tara Bai is facing towards north.¹¹

I. Architecture of Cenotaphs

1) Malhar Rao (I) and cenotaph of Gautama Bai Holkar

Subedar Malhar Rao Holkar established the Holkar dynasty in Malwa (1728 A.D. 1766 A.D.) on 26th May 1766 A.D. he died in Alampur. Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar constructed the cenotaph of Malhar Rao in Alampur but as a memorial she also constructed the cenotaph at Indore also. Cenotaph of Malhar Rao is constructed on the high rising platform and constructed in the Rajput style.¹² Gautama Bai, wife of Subedar Malhar Rao Holkar died very early in 1761 A.D. so a cenotaph of Gautamabai was also constructed near the Malha Rao (I) in 1784 A.D. in the direction of Ahilya Bai Holkar.¹³ Cenotaph of Gautamabai is very attractive. It has double bulbous dome, main dome is constructed on the rectangular base. Main central dome is erected on the twelve decorative pillars which

⁹ Shrinivaslu. Smt. P, Smavit Malwa-Maratha Sanskriti Ke Jkutch Maharvpurna Avshesh, Ahliya Smarika, P. 49: Dr. Raijada, Ajit, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1922, p. 25

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digidarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, p. 88

¹² Epigraph written outside the gate of Chhatribagh

¹³ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digidarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, p. 88

are made up of red sandstone. Human figures and Entrance gate of cenotaph is made on the Amer and Jaipur style which is half circular.¹⁴

2) Cenotaph of Male Rao Holkar

Male Rao Holkar was the son of Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar and he ruled the State for very short time from 20th May 1766 to 13th March 1767 A.D. Cenotaph of Male Rao was also constructed by the Hail Bai himself on the western side of the cenotaph of Malhar Rao Holkar (I). This cenotaph is made on the Rajput style of architecture on a high platform. Platform is engraved with the numerous images of God and Goddess. It also has double dome and octagonal hall inside the cenotaph. Inside the hall statue of elephant is shown with the queens seated on it. Apart from it also have idols of Male Rao and his queen which was installed by the Ahilya Bai in 1784 A.D.¹⁵

3) Cenotaph of Khande Rao Holkar

Khande Rao was the son of Malhar Rao Holkar (I). on 17th March 1754 A.D. he died in the battle against the Jts near Bharatpur.¹⁶ Khande Rao never became a king but he was very famous for his bravery, on his death, his wife Ahilya Bai wanted to be Sati¹⁷ along with the other queens., but his in-law Malhar Rao Holkar denied the act, by persuading her. Cenotaph of Khande Rao was also completed with the cenotaphs of Malhar Rao Holkar and Ahilya inaugurated it in 1784 A.D. This cenotaph is constructed in-between the cenotaphs of Malhar Rao (I) and Male Rao and it is facing towards the north. It has nothing extraordinary in terms of architecture, an idol of Khande Rao and Ahilya Bai is installed in the hall of the Cenotaph.

¹⁴ Epigraph written outside the gate of Chhatri Bagh; Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992, p.27

¹⁵ Epigraph written outside the gate of Chhatribagh

¹⁶ Dr. Rajjada Ajit, Archaeology and Museum,1992, Bhopal, p. 28

¹⁷ Sati was an old tradition in India, which was banned by the British Government on the initiative of Raja ram Mohan rai in 1884 According to this tradition, on the death of the husband of a women; wife was compelled to burn herself in the fire along with his husband.

4) **Cenotaph of Tukoji Rao (I)**

After the death of Ahilya Bai Holkar, Tukoji Rao Holkar (I) became the king, but he died on 15th August 1797 A.D. near Kirki. Maharaja Yashwanat Rao Holkar continued the tradition of construction of cenotaph by constructing the Chhati of his father in Chhatri Bagh, but this cenotaph was later on completed in the direction of Krishna Bai Holkar. This cenotaph is also made on platform. This platform is made very decorative by engraving the images of guards, doorkeepers, images of hunting, elephant, and horses. Dresses of doorkeepers denote the modern dresses and give us the hint of British influence at Indore. On the south side of the platform, images of Hindu God and Goddess are beautifully portrayed. Images of Lord Shiva along with Ardh-Nrishwar made this platform very decorative. Hall is erected with the help of pillars, pillars erected at the entrance of the cenotaph is made very decorative. Top of the cenotaph is made like Panch-Rath. Ceiling of the cenotaph is decorated with shows the influence of Mughal art. The central Hall (Garbha graham) has Shiv-linga and on one platform an idol of Maharaja Tukoji Rao (I) along with his two wife's on both the sides of his arms is installed.

5) **Cenotaph of Malhar Rao Holkar (II)**

Cenotaph of Malhar Rao Holkar (II) (1811-1833 A.D.) looked very similar in the style of construction with the cenotaph of Tukoji Rao Holkar (I). However it is less decorative than the former one. Central hall is constructed with the help of pillars. Central hall have idol of Malhar Rao and his queens along with the Shiva-lingam. Mandap is erected on four pillars, three semi Mandap are also constructed in this Chhatri.¹⁸

6) **Cenotaph of Tai Bai (Rakhama Bai), Snehalata Raje and Indira Bai Holkar**

Rakhama Bai was the wife of Tukoji Rao Holkar (I) and popularly known as Taj Bai. After the death of Ahilya Bai she had authority to hold the Khasgi Jagie for very long time. This cenotaph is

¹⁸ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992, pp. 30

very simple in architecture and style too. This is a North faced cenotaph erected on a high platform. Idol of Rahhma Bai is situated at Central hall. It is octagonal cenotaph with very ordinary top. Top of this cenotaph looks like fluted dome and is constructed by red sand stone. A pillar of the cenotaph is decorated with the images of dancing peacock which is Rajput in style.¹⁹ On the left side of the stairs of the cenotaph and elephant and camel is engraved on the wall, while left side of the stairs is now damaged. Cenotaph of Snehalata Raja is constructed of Marble, she was died in her childhood when she was only 10 years old in 1925 A.D. Platform is constructed with the red sandstone. Top of the cenotaph has semi-circular half dome resting on the six pillars made up of marble. Central hall is octagonal and top of the cenotaph looked like an open lotus. An idol of princess was installed in the central hall of the cenotaph.

II. Second group at Chhatri Bagh

On the southern- western corner of the bridge which joins the Chhatri Bagh to Harsidhhi; there lies a second group of cenotaphs. In this group, only one Royal Cenotaph of Hari Rao Holkar dynasty is there, other cenotaphs constructed have are not directly related to the Royal family. This group has cenotaphs of Hari Rao Holkar, Tatyra Jog (Vitthal Rao Kibe), and Bapu Rao Holkar.

1) Cenotaph of Hari Rao Holkar

Main cenotaph at the center of the campus is of Hari Rao Holkar (1843 - 1843A.D.). This cenotaph was constructed during the reign of Tukoji Rao Holkar (II). This decorative cenotaph is constructed on a platform which is engraved by the images of God, Goddess, ideal males and females, Gandhrva, mythological stories are also depicted on it associated With lord shri Krishna and shri Ram, story of Draupadi Swamvar is also depicted on the platform which looks very ornamented and beautiful.²⁰ Mandap of the cenotaph is ornamented by the beautiful arch. In between these arches idols of lord Vishnu and other Hindu God and Goddess is engraved in it. Ceiling is ornamented with calligraphy describing royal ideal males (Raj purush). On the entrance gate of this cenotaph two doorkeepers are also engraved. When

¹⁹ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1922, pp. 30

²⁰ Epigraph written outside the Cenotaph; Dr. Rajjada Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Bhopal, 1992, pp.30-31

we enter in the hall, on one side there is image of Garudha (vulture) and on other side of entrance image of Venu gopal is engraved on the rock to make this cenotaph the most beautiful in its class. Inside the central hall, an idol of Maharaja Hari Rao Holkar is installed. Top of the cenotaph looked like a south Indian temple which has a shape of Rath. Beautiful work is also done on its top, many images of saints and Holy persons are engraved in the rock. Top of this cenotaph is constructed in Dravidian style rather than Nagar style.²¹

General Characteristics of first group of Cenotaphs constructed at Chhatri Bagh²²

- 1) All the cenotaphs are enclosed inside the walled compound.
- 2) Cenotaphs of Ahilya Bai Holkar and Khande Rao Holkar are meant for only memorials but cenotaph of Malhar Rao Holkar I and Male Rao are made very beautiful.
- 3) Shape wise these cenotaphs are octagonal and constructed on a platform of 3.5 feet in height.
- 4) Instead of plain roofs they have provision for the semi circular type dome which is erected with the help of pillars.
- 5) Images of mythological characters and God and Goddess are engraved on the cenotaphs from platform up to the top of cenotaph.
- 6) These cenotaphs are the mixture of Rajput- Mughal-Maratha style of architecture.

General Characteristics of the cenotaphs of first group in the second area of Chhatri Bagh²³

- 1) these cenotaphs are close to the Indian Hindu architecture, they have huge size.
- 2) These are constructed on a platform which is three feet high.
- 3) They have huge dome and looked very solid and bulky
- 4) Platform is engraved with human and god figures.
- 5) Top of the cenotaph looked Indian in style and images of God is engraved. In the square brackets on the top of cenotaph.
- 6) All the construction is done with the red sandstone.

²¹ Shrinivaslu. Smt. P, Ahliya Smarika, pp. 50

²² Shrinivaslu. Smt. P, Ahliya Smarika, 1982, pp.50

²³ Shrinivaslu. Smt. P, Ahliya Smarika, 1982

II. Cenotaphs at Krishnapura

These are exquisite cenotaphs of the three later Holkar rulers. These memorials in stone are gracefully poised on the banks of the Khan River with pyramidal spires tapering into soaring kalashas. Facing west is the cenotaph built over the ashes of another women ruler of Malwa, Maharani Krishna. Maharani Krishna Bai was made guardian of prince maharaja Malhar Rao II after the death of Talsa Bai, wife of Yashwant Rao Holkar I²⁴ Cenotaph of Krishna Bai Holkar is example of Hindu temple architecture, and actually it is a combination of Mughal, Maratha and Rajput style of architecture.²⁵ Entrance of the Chhatri is made very decorative which is made up of marble with the image of Ganesha engraved on it, which is truly Maratha in style. Images of doorkeepers, lord Krishna and cows are engraved on it. On both sides of the entrance images of doorkeepers are engraved and they are wearing Maratha style of cloths on their bodies.²⁶ When we enter the central hall two pillars are joined by the arch which is Indian in style and bore a Rajput style, central hall is octagonal. Outer pillars of the cenotaph are joined together to form the Arched door, Mandap is erected with the help of 36 pillars. Interior hall of the cenotaph is erected on Panch-Rath style of Hindu temple architecture. This hall has images of Ardhnarishwar, Laxmi and Mahalaxmi is engraved on the walls.²⁷ Top of the cenotaph is built on Nagar style and it has reflection of architectural style of temples of Orissa.

The other two Chhatris are of Tukoji Rao II and Shivaji Rao, father and son, and are linked by a common oblong prayer hall with ornately carved arches and pillars on a high platform along the grabha griha containing life size statues of these rulers. A breathtaking sight at night when illuminated, the Chhatris glow bright against the dark of the sky. An artificial lake is crated in this stretch of the otherwise dry Khan River, complete with a fountain, well-laid gardens on both banks and boating facility. At Chhatri Bagh is the main collection of tombs housed in two compounds. Close by is the

²⁴ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,pp.18

²⁵ Ibid.,pp.18

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 199., pp.19

beautiful Bolia Sarkar's Chhatri constructed in 1858 AD in memory of Sardar Chimnaji Appa Sahib Bolia.²⁸

PALACES OF HOLKARS

Rajbada

The Holkar Palace or Rajbada is close to the Chhatris, in the main square. It is a seven-storied building (only façade remains) built over two centuries and is built in a mixture of Maratha, Mughal and French style. Peshwa of Pune appointed Malhar Rao Holkar I, as a Subedar of Malwa region to protect its territories from the attack of strong Mughal forces that's why in 1734 A.D; Malhar Rao laid down the foundation of Rajwada to establish Indore as an Army base camp. It is said that, this place where Rajwada is situated belongs to Mr. Kanungo, land was taken from him and he was given another land in lieu of this land at other place.²⁹ Rajbada is built on a rising ground to protect it from the flood water of the rivers around it.

Architecture

Rajbada is a mixture of Mughal, Maratha and Italian architectural design.³⁰ The gopura-like monumental stone and wood structure, flanked by bastions, studded with balconies and windows, is a testimony of the past Holkar grandeur. It is built in the 6,175 square meters with a maximum height of 29 meter. Its entrance gate is 6.70 meter tall, which resembles like the door of an Indian fort. Seven storeys tall building is quite unique in architectural terms as three storeys are erected in Rajput style and rest of the above in Maratha style.³¹

Its lofty entrance archway above a huge wooden door encrusted with iron studs, leads into a vast courtyard enclosed by galleried rooms, and the arcaded Ganesh hall where state and religious functions were once held.⁴ It is now used for art exhibitions and classical music concerts. The lower three floors are

²⁸ http://www.allindiatortravel.com/hot_spots/indore/chhatri_baug; Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992, pp.19

²⁹ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digdarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, pp.215

³⁰ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Indore, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992, pp.21

³¹ Ibid.

made of stone and the upper floors are made of wood, which made it very vulnerable to destruction by fire. Rajwada was burnt three times in its history; the last fire in 1984 took the greatest toll. Today only the front Façade remains. Recent renovations have recreated some of the old glory of this beautiful palace. The charred rubble of the rear portion has now given way to a symmetrically laid out garden featuring fountains, an artificial waterfall and some superb pieces of 11th century sculpture. Synonymous with the heart of Indore city, it stands today as a mute witness to the bygone splendor of the Holkar rulers. The New Palace still remains on the north side. In the old part of town the multi-storey gateway of the Rajwada or Old Palace looks out onto the palm-lined main square in the crowded streets of the Khajuri Bazaar. About 200 years ago, this seven-storied historical building formed the nerve centre of all trading activities. Even today it stands proud in the market place, a silent tribute to the craftsmanship of unknown artisans of centuries ago.³²

Lal Bagh Palace

It is one of the grandest monuments the Holkar dynasty reflecting the taste, grandeur and lifestyle of the Holkar's. It is the ancestral palace of the rulers. Many royal receptions were held here and at one time it contained one of the best rose gardens of the country. A reflection of their taste, grandeur and life style, its construction began in 1886 under Tukoji Rao Holkar-II and completed in 1921 under Tukoji Rao –III. Lavishly decorated in the Versailles style, the Lal Bagh Palace in Indore was designed by British architects Mr. Harvey, Mr. Carey and Mr. Camphel for the Holkar's.³³

Architecture and style of Palace

Baroque, Renaissance, Maratha and Mughal styles meet in the architecture and decoration of this palace inhabited by the Holkar's till 1978 A.D. The Salon de la Guerre and the Palais des Glaces of Versailles have been the main inspiration of the interiors and gardens also show resemblance to those of the French Chateau. According to Pierre cadot, a French heritage architect, the

³² http://www.allindiatourtravel.com/hot_spots/indore/rajwada

³³ The Hindustan Times, Indore edition, 19th October 2002

interiors of the Lal Bagh Palace are typical of the neo classical style and particularly close to those of French residences at the end of 19th century A.D. The abundant use of marble and gold, the geometric Stucco drawings and the woodwork are reminiscent of French classical style that regained importance in this period. This Palace can be easily compared to residences like the Petit Trianon and Grand Trianon, which were built close to the Chateau de Versailles, by Louis XVI. This type of architecture was reproduced in other countries, especially in England in the beginning of the 19th century A.D. which probably explain the choices made by the British architects of the Lal Bagh Palace. When optimally restored, the gardens complimented by the river Khan, could become the perfect envelope for the jewel that is Lal Bagh.³⁴ The main attractions are the splendidly proportioned and furnished rooms, with frescoed ceilings and gilded ornamental mouldings. The rooms have been restored and furnished to pleasing effect. Much of the furniture and ornamentation is in the late Regency, early Georgian style. Its Italian marble columns, grand chandeliers, rich Persian carpets, flying nymphs on the ceiling, Belgium stained glass windows, Greek mythological relief's, Italian style wall paintings, a wooden ballroom floor mounted on springs, stuffed leopards and tigers are magnificent. The whole complex has a total area of 28 acres.³⁵ Its uniqueness lies in the pantry and kitchen being situated across a rivulet with provision of a mechanical trolley. Now converted into a museum the palace has a rare and vast collection of old painting and armor on display.

Though simple to look from outside, the magnificent interior takes one into a dreamland of past glory. The imposing gates of the palace are unique in Asia. A replica of the gates of Buckingham palace (London), about twice size, were moulded in cast iron and shipped from England. They carry the Holkar state emblem, meaning. "He who tries will succeed".³⁶

Manik Bagh Palace

Manik Bagh was the last Palace of the Holkar's, which is situated on the Choithram Hospital road. Its construction was completed in the reign of Tukoji Rao-III (1911-1915 A.D.) building cost was around 2.5 lakhs of rupees. He built this building for the office of his ministers and his

³⁴ The Hindustan Times, Indore edition, 19th October 2002

³⁵ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992, pp.13

³⁶ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992, pp.15

residence, later on it was inhabited by Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holkar.³⁷ Two stories Palace was built in the supervision of French architect Mr. Matthews of Warning and Galow company, London. Palace is built in the Jacobean style³⁸ in 20 acres of land. Outer walls of the building are constructed with red sandstone and dark brown colored stones, while roof is constructed with glazed Mangalore tiles. Walls are devoid of decoration and floor has wooden plates which looks quite unique in style and decoration.³⁹ This Palace has four entrance doors around it, except the southern side pillar at the entrance all the pillars have porch on it. On the both sides of the porches arched corridor is provided. On the both sides of the north side porches, halls are built, which have wooden roof, even stairs are also built with wood to give pleasant European architectural effect. Overall this Palace is constructed on the early British architectural design, now days this palace is used as a customs and excise office.

Hawa Bungalow

Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar built this bungalow in 1884 A.D on Indore- Rangwasa road. This is a three storied building with a rectangular shape. Main entrance if the bungalow is facing towards east direction, which have porch, based on the pillars. Foundation of this building is constructed with basalt stone which is lifted up to the height of one meter above the ground which provides a rock solid foundation and also enhances its beauty. Unlike the foundation main building is constructed with brick, lime and mortar along with wood on various places. Hawa mahal have 25 rooms. Whole building is made in classical style.⁴⁰ On the top of the northern and southern entrance bore a pyramid and semi-circular design over them. Pillars inside the building are Ionic in style.² Inside the building on both the sides pillars are used, pillars of the second floor are Corinthian in style. On the western side porch a small corridor is constructed which has three arched entrance. Overall whole building is looked like an Italian villa from outside and inside.⁴¹

Moti Bungalow

³⁷ Ibid.,pp.53

³⁸ Early architectural style of English king James 1. (1603-1625 A.D.)

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,pp. 45

⁴¹ Ibid.,pp. 45

Moti bungalow is situated on the west side of the Gandhi hall. This building was constructed by Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar in 1893 A.D. This building was used as the secretariat building of the Holkar State. Around 2.5 lakhs of rupees was spent on its construction of the bungalow.

Building is two storied and have rectangular shape from outside. It is based on the British architecture built with brick, lime mortar and wood. Porches are used on the entrance of the building. Roof of the porches is built with wood and three doors are made in the arched style for the purpose of decoration. When we enter through the porch we came across the stairs which are made up of wood. These stairs directly go towards the second storey. On the second storey roof of the halls are also made up of wood like the roof of first storey halls. Halls have arched doors and windows. Outer plan of this building looked very much classical in style.⁴²

Shiv vilas Palace⁴³

Shiv vilas Palace was built in the reign of Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar, situated on the north side of the Rajbada built in the classical style. Basically it is a three storied building. Ground floor is constructed in the Greek style with red stone while second storey is built with concrete and wood. On the eastern side of the ground floor. There is large platform which has stairs to climb on it. Halls are constructed inside of this platform. In front of this platform verandah is built by the help and support of the eight pillars. These pillars are made up in Ionic style, while pillars on the second storey have Corinthian style. This building looked Italian in style from outside. Greek style of decoration is used on the top end of the windows; masks are also implanted on the walls to give them Greek effect. This building is unique in many ways as it uses Greek and Ionic style of decoration on the second and first storey respectively. First storey has ionic style of drawings on the panels of the window while second storey has Greek drawings. Therefore this Palace also reflects the European taste of the Holkar kings.

Phuti Kothi

⁴² Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,pp. 52

⁴³ . Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,pp.54-55

Phuti Kothi construction was started by the Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar (1886-1902 A.D.) on the Rangwasa- Indore road. This building was constructed to encounter the probable attack of British army which has its army base in Mhow near Indore. But unfortunately, British administration unearth the original objective behind the construction of this building thus construction was abandoned and it left uncompleted. This building is built in the Indian style with no roof above it. Pillars are round in shape which converted to square on its top and carry an image of bird with their open wings. Pillars are joined with the help of the arches which have flowers engraved on it. It is a two storied building, on the north and west side of this building porches are used. On the ground floor 18 temples are built with various Hindu God and Goddess images in it. This huge building has 365 rooms and if it were completed it will definitely outshine many building of its time.⁴⁴

(B) FAMOUS TEMPLES OF INDORE BUILT DURING THE REIGN OF HOLKARS

The Holkar king and queens were famous for their religious endowments, especially Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar was very famous for her religious activities not only in Indo rebut all over the India. She had contributed lot of money in the name religious charity to build temples at the various places.⁴⁵ Indore too had Temples built by its famous rulers during the time span of two hundred years.

1) Harsidhhi Temple

The is very old temple of Indore, situated near the Harsidhhi Bridge. Goddess Durga is the deity of this temple and it was built by the Devi Ahilya Holkar in 1793 A.D. Ahilya Bai also said to be donated a charity to appoint a priest in this temple on a regular basis. Pandit Janardhan Bhatt was the first priest of this temple. It is also belived that it is very holy temple, the will of the person is said to be fulfilled here, if he wish the god with his pure heat and soul, now this temple is going to be 209 years old. Ladies of the royal families of the Holkar court used to visit to this temple everyday.

⁴⁴ Ibid.,pp.47

⁴⁵ Gawade, suresh, Naiduniya (Newspaper) Archive file at Naiduniya Press, file no. 104/6

Chandravati and Indira Bai Holkar were very famous for their punctuality for attending the Aarti of this temple in the morning. Presently this temple is under the control of Devi Ahilya Trust.⁴⁶

2) **Bijasen Temple**

Temple at Bijasen is around 400-500 years old situated on the Bijasen Tekri, airport road. We have no information that who founded this temple. It is believed that Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar made a solemn vow to the deity, for the procurement of male child. It is said that by the power of the deity Goddess, Prince Tukoji Rao III was born. After the fulfillment of his wish, Maharaja Shivaji Rao renovates the Bijasen temple. Presently administration of this temple lies in the hands of the district Administration.⁴⁷ During the days of Nav-Ratri, royal members of the Holkar family used to visit this temple in olden days.⁴⁸

3) **Temple of Durga Devi**

Durga Devi temple is situated at Subash Chowk, Indore. This temple was founded by Maharaja Tukoji Rao I. According to one folk story, it is believed that one day Maharaja Tukoji Rao I saw a dream of Goddess Durga. In this dream Goddess Durga told the Maharaja that "I am presently immersed in the waters of the Narmada River at Maheshwar, and urged to bring her out from the water." Later an idol was found in the Maheshwar, this idol then brought to Indore on the Elephant back with royal caravan. A three storied temple was built in the Maratha style in Subash Chowk. Facial expression of goddess Durga is Mahishasura mardini and it is facing towards the east direction. Tukoji Rao I nominated Pandit Ram Keshav as the first priest of this temple.

4) **Mahalaxmi Temple**

Mahalaxmi temple is situated at the heart of Indore, Rajwada. This temple was built in 1832 A.D. by Maharaja Hari Rao Holkar. Maharani Sharmishta Devi had a habit to visit this temple daily. This is the temple of goddess Laxmi, who is considered as the goddess of wealth and prosperity in

⁴⁶ Nagar, Suryakant, Naiduniya (Newspaper) Archive file at Naiduniya Press, file no. 106

⁴⁷ Gawade, Suresh, Naiduniya (Newspaper) Archive file at Naiduniya Press, file no. 104/6

⁴⁸ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digidarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, pp. 181

Hindu religion. During the time of Holkar reign, on the occasion of Dipawali, huge mass was used to gather at the temple premises to attend the Aarti of this temple. Presently Ahilya Trust donates some amount for its maintenance.⁴⁹

5) **Temple at Kesharbagh**

This temple was founded by the Rajmata Krishna Bai Holkar on Keshar Bagh road that's why this temple is called Keshar Bagh temple. Inside the main hall of this temple idol of lord Ganesha, Shiva and Parvati is installed. This temple is also called Tukeshwar temple because of the names associated with the gods inside this temple. Temple is beautifully constructed in an open compound. Administration of this temple lies in the hands of the district administration.

6) **Indreshwar Temple**

This temple was built by the Rashtrakuta king Indira in the 10th century A.D. this is lord Shiva temple. In historical perspective, this temple was built by Subedar Malhar Rao Holkar in 1741 A.D.⁵⁰ It is situated at Juni Indore behind the Pandrinath Police station. Temple is built on a rectangular base and has Panchrath based style of Rashtrakuta kings. Top of this temple is built in the Nagar style and has kalash on its top.⁵¹

7) **Temple at Deo-Guradiva**

Deo-Guradiva temple is said to be thousand years Old, situated on the Indore-Nemawar road. This temple belongs to the Gutekshwar Mahadev. It is believed that this temple was built by the Parmar rulers of Malwa and it is said that this temple is again rebuilt during the times of Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar (1765-1795 A.D.) Idol of lord Shiva is placed on such a location that natural spring

⁴⁹ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digdarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999., pp. 182

⁵⁰ Shrivastava ,P.N, Madhya Pradesh district Gazetteer: Indore,1971, pp.648

⁵¹ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,pp.10

water is continuously falls over the forehead of lord Shiva. Festival of Mahashivratri was organized by the Holkar Kings near the temple premises. Whenever Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar came to Indore from Maheshwar she used to visit the temple. Later king and queens of Holkar dynasty also pay their tributes to the lord Shiva by attending the festival of Mahashivratri. During the times of Holkar's a three day long fair is also being organized at the campus of the temple during the month of Falgun.⁵² Large number of villagers and crowd from the neighboring villagers and small towns also came to this temple to attend the fair and to watch the royal procession of Holkar kings.⁵³ Deoguradiya temple have small temple in its own campus like Gutekshwar Mahadev and Naagchandreshwar Mahadev. Main entrance is arched doors and in the artificial lake temple of Naagchandreshwar temple is built.⁵⁴

8) **Kankeshwar Mahadev Temple**

Kankeshwar Mahadev temple was built by the Generous help of the Maharaja Malhar Rao Holkar II in 1829 A.d., when he donated the 15 bigha of land in the charity to the Mahant (priest) of the temple who later on constructed this temple. Temple is situated at Juni Indore, Malipura Mohalla. Temple is facing towards the north and it has an idol of lord Shiva. Garbha-graha, and Mandap represent the Rajput style and entrance gate is also according to Hindu temple architecture. Mandap is erected with the help of 24 pillars and made up of Basalt.³ During the Mahashivratri large number of people flock to this temple to attend the ceremony associated with lord Shiva. Royal ladies of the Holkar family visited this temple daily.

9) **Gopal Temple**

Gopal Temple was built was the Maharani Krishna Bai Holkar in 1832 A.D. Krishna Bai was the wife of Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holkar. Total cost incurred in the construction of this temple was around 80,000 rupees at that time.⁵⁵ In 1937 A.D. Maharaja Yashwant Rao II lifted the ban on harijans to enter inside the temple as a secular policy.¹ This temple is facing towards the north

⁵² Its marks the arrival of the Spring and according to Gregorian calendar it starts on 13 February ; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falgun>

⁵³ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digidarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, p.140

⁵⁴ Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,pp.40

⁵⁵ Rajjada, Ajit, Indore, Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992,p.p.49

direction on both sides of the entrance gate halls are erected with wooden roof on them. On a large platform Grabha-graha and Mandap is erected. Mandap is Panchrath in style and have idols of lord Radha and Krishna. Entrance gate is quite simple and square in shape. Huge mandap is erected with the help of 30 pillars which are square in shape and style. Pillars of the Mandap is joined together to form the arches of Rajasthani style. Three sides around the pillars have corridors. Top of the temple is based on the Nagar style and this style of temple was the tradition of Maratha rulers at that time.⁵⁶

10) Lord Ganesha Temple at Malharganj

Tatya jog, Diwan of the Holkar state, was better known as the chankya of the state, built this temple in 1818 A.D., in his own premises. Same year Indore became the capital of the Holkar state. As this is the temple of Ganesha, an Idol of Ganesh is installed inside this temple. In 1937 A.D. Maharaja Yashwant Rao II lifted the ban on Harijans⁵⁷ to enter inside the temple as a secular policy.⁵⁸ This temple is facing towards the north direction on both sides of the entrance gate halls are erected with wooden roof on them. On a large platform Grabha-graha and Mandap is erected. Mandap is Panchrath in style and have idols of lord Radha and Krishna. Entrance gate is quite simple and square in shape. Huge Mandap is erected with the help of 30 pillars which are square in shape and style. Pillars of the Mandap is joined together to form the arches of Rajasthani style. Three sides around the pillars have corridors. Top of the temple is based on the Nagar style and this style of temple was the tradition of Maratha rulers at that time.⁵⁹

11) Narsingh Temple

Maharaja Yashwant Rao I founded the temple of Narsingh bazaar, Rajwada. It is two hundred years old temple. Maharaja Yashwant Rao I donated a copper plate to temple which is still preserved in the temple premises. Maharaja Tukoji Rao III and his wife was regular visitor of the temple. As this temple has the idol of Narsingh, which was also carried to the battle ground before

⁵⁶ Ibid.,

⁵⁷ Harijan was considered to be untouchable in India and Gandhiji Popularized this term.

⁵⁸ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digidarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, pp. 140

⁵⁹ Dr. Rajjada, Ajit, , Archaeology and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 1992. pp.49

the starting of the war. First this idol was offered the ceremonial tilak and only after obtaining the permission from the priest, official war was started by the Holkar army.⁶⁰

12) Vaiyenketesh Temple

Vaiyenketesh temple is situated at Chhatri Bagh Indore. It is around 162 year's old temple. Maharaja Tukoji Rao II donated a land in charity for the construction of this temple. About hundred years ago an idol of lord Vaiyenketesh was brought down to Indore from Trupati. Andhra Pradesh and installed this idol in the temple of Vaiyenketesh temple. Now on the pattern of Jaganathpuri, a procession of Rath Yatra is carried every year from the premises of this Temple.⁶¹

13) Temple at Pandrinath

This temple was built with the generous help of Maharaja Malhar Rao Holkar II. This is a lord Vishnu temple and situated in the heart of the city, Pandrinath. This temple is facing towards the east direction. Maratha style of architecture is used in this temple and it has Grabhagraha, Sabha Mandap and Mandap. Its main Mandap is built on two pillars. Entrance gate has images of lord Ganesha and lord Kartikeya. Top of the temple is constructed in the Nagar style.⁶²

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⁶⁰ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digdarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, pp. 185

⁶¹ Azad, Nagendra, Indore Darshan Digdarshan, Sputnik, Indore, 1999, pp. 192

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