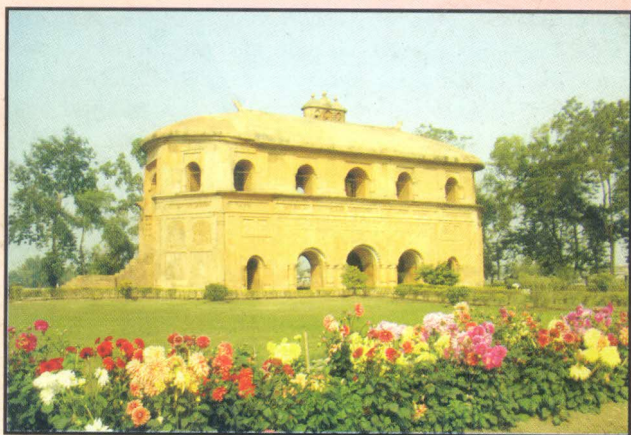


AHOM MONUMENTS SIVASAGAR



Rang-ghar, Rangpur



Ahom Raja's Palace, Garhgaon



प्रलकीर्तिमपावृणु

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

GUWAHATI CIRCLE

AHOM MONUMENTS

Sivasagar, 369 km east of Guwahati in Assam, remained the seat of Ahom power for approx. six centuries whose first king, Sukapha, migrating from Mong-Mao or Mong-Mao Ling (South-west Yunnan province in China) had established his first capital at Charaideo in 1261 A.D. Later on, Sudangpha changed his capital to Charaguya, in 1403 A.D., from where Suklengmung shifted to Garhgaon. Sukampha again shifted his capital to Salaguri and finally Rudra Simha founded the fifth Ahom capital at Rangpur on the bank of river Dikhow. The Sivasagar district encompasses the above cited places where vestiges of Ahoms are located.

The Literary records and local tradition mention about the Ahoms inheriting the tradition of construction by using impermanent materials. 'Satsai Buranji', a literary source, credits king Suhummong who started the tradition of 'building royal palace' with gable ends. Local traditions ascribe the use of permanent materials like bricks and stones to king Rudra Simha who brought the expert artisans for the purpose from Koch Bihar.

The literary sources refer to the construction of Nagasekhar Devalaya at Jamaguri (Dist. Sonitpur) by Susenpha (1439-88 A.D.), temple constructed by Dihingia Raja (1497-1529 A.D.) to commemorate his victory on the bank of the Karatoya in north Bengal and the temples at Negheriting, Garhgaon and Vishwanath Ghat all built during the period of Pratap Simha (1603-61 A.D.) Unfortunately these edifices are either completely obliterated by the later construction or damaged by the vagaries of nature.

Gorakhiya dol at Nazira, the earliest example of Ahom constructions, was built by Pratap Simha. It has an octagonal garbhagriha and a rectangular mandapa. The inverted cone like sikhara is embellished with vertical ridges, radiating down from pinnacle to the junction of the bhitti and sikhara.

The earliest example of the next phase, the Devighar, was built by king Rudra Simha, on the western bank of Jaisagar tank near Rangpur. The surviving foundation and some wall portion of mandapa and garbhagriha indicate the use of bricks in its construction. The best example of this period is Kesavanarayana temple or Jai dol, situated on the northern bank of Jaisagar tank. On plan it has an octagonal garbhagriha, an antarala and two mandapas, all aligned to the east-west axis. The bhitti portion is decorated with rosette design and images of divine personages in alternate row. Its oval sikhara, provided

