



Graves of Forgotten Soul's buried in Indian Soil

(With especial reference to the graves architecture of Mr. William Jones, Lord Cornwallis and Henry Derozio)

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Abstract: The Cemeteries in India are the combination of architecture, sculpture, landscape, wildlife and poetry makes cemeteries like no other place in the historic environment. Indian is known in the world for its temple architecture and other monumental sculptures. This area of research is still remained discarded. Its time of discover history from diverse angle. Cemeteries are the untouched area of research and they need to be lifted up. The Graves for instance lie in the south park cemetery of Kolkata and focusing on special grave constructed in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh of Lord Cornwallis reveal much about the fashion and practices of the time. They are rich in architecture and sculptures. It is known for the great art of engraving on stones and marbles. It takes up into a valuable window of past, but currently these cemeteries have suffered from years of under investment, which is ultimately resulting in appearance of negligence and decay.

The inscription on memorials, the design of monuments, the choice of stones, the architecture of building and landscape design shed light on past social customs and events and combine to make a cemetery an irreplaceable historical resource. They are valued as places for quiet reflection, as green spaces, and for their wildlife interest.

At present the legibility of the designed landscape has been eroded. The main purpose of my research in this field is to restore their identities and value their historical, cultural and influential character. The foremost focus is to draw attentiveness of citizens our country and to educate them for the conservation of these architecture buried in Indian soil.

Keywords-Principal Body, Façade, Intellectual, Cemetery, Architecture

INTRODUCTION

No list of the Christian tombs and monuments in India has ever been published. Cemeteries are often great places to study different stone types and their characteristics. Weathered limestones may reveal embedded fossils. Sadly, too many of our cemeteries have suffered from years of under-investment. The result is often an appearance of neglect and decay – Historic cemeteries are also vulnerable to long-held assumptions about ecology and heritage, we need to raise awareness of our historic cemeteries, champion them and ensure they are valued as vital green spaces for the well-being of our communities. The Graves of Famous British officers at South Park Street Cemetery is located on Mother Teresa Sarani, Kolkata, India. The road used to be called Park Street, and prior to that Burial Ground Road and that of Lord Cornwallis are highly valued, not only as places of commemoration but as oases in built-up areas, havens for wildlife and showcases for decorative sculpture. But they are clearly vulnerable. As resources continue to diminish and repair bills rise, the key will be to reawaken interest in these sites and to ensure that they are both sustainable in the long-term and valued as vital green spaces for all communities to enjoy.

NEED OF THE STUDY.

The glimpse of colonial architecture in India is present in the form of either church buildings, Buildings constructed with the efforts of Edwin Lutyens in New Delhi or in the form of railway Bungalows or Cantonment buildings.

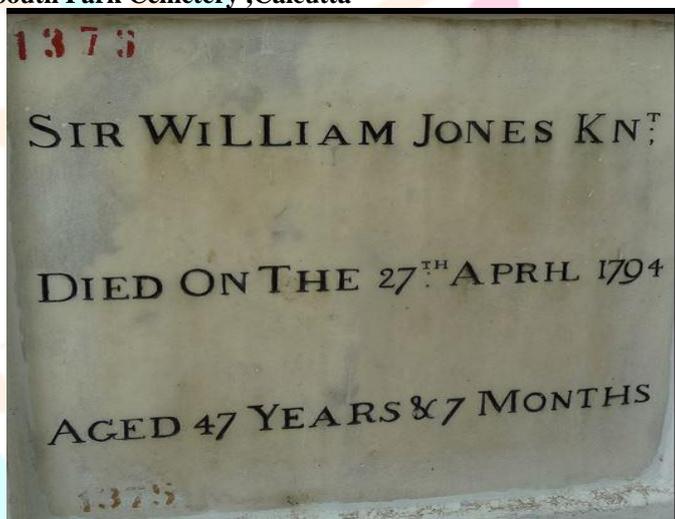
Apart from these two heritages, Cemeteries in Indian soil region shows variant architectonics exhibiting impressive architecture in its own way and this heritage in particular is still unearthen part of research that need to be lifted up. They have their own intrinsic value because of its abstract value of years of old legacy and partly because of valuable stone and marble used in construction, revealing amazing stonework.

Contrasting Architecture of Graves with especial reference to tombs dignitary persons lies in the soil of India

India also witnessed the stories of unprecedented personalities who greatly worked for the cultural enhancement of colonial India for instance, The magnificent tomb of William Jones¹ and Henry Derozio², their graves lie in south park street cemetery³ of Calcutta along and the magnificent tomb of lord Cornwallis in Ghazipur⁴, Uttar Pradesh. The graves of dead at the South Park Street Cemetery in Kolkata can whisper tales that tell tales of devotion and sorrow, of grief and ecstasies, and passionate pursuits.



1.1 Tomb of sir William Jones situated in the South Park Cemetery ,Calcutta



One of the greatest pioneer of Indian studies, developed the idea of a common source for languages. One who realized the cultural wealth of Indian writings, lead to the establishment of Asiatic society of Bengal in 1784⁵, he went on to translate AbhigyanShakuntala⁶ and Manu smriti from Sanskrit language to English.

His graves lie in the center of the south park cemetery Calcutta⁷. It is heightened as compared to the other graves of cemetery with inverted conical in shape pointed at the top whose bottom part is decorated four Cup trophies with the bottom end of the cone shape, perhaps constructed to pay respect to him. The principal body of the grave is trapezoid in shape with two table on is placed at the façade center of the tomb of black marble giving details about the parted soul while the other is placed left side of the mass body of the tomb adorning his name and year of death.



1.2 Tomb of lord Cornwallis situated in Gora bazaar park at the river bank colony Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh

The tomb of lord Cornwallis lies at the center of Gora Bazaar Park area, near the river bank colony, Ghazipur Uttar Pradesh, a man who came to India with a determination to clean the administration in year 1786⁸ and died in 1805⁹, He is most famous for permanent settlement introduced by him in year 1793¹⁰, He is introduced civil services in India, and made positive changes in the administrative governance of India during colonial rule.

The tomb of lord Cornwallis which is one of the greatest points of visitor heritage of Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh these architectural legacy in form of burials also resulted in the greatest magnetism of British tourist, who comes annually to see the cultural heritage of majestic city of Calcutta. The inscriptions in this great cemetery unveil a lot what the city was like in the 18th Century.

The Architectural structure is It is the absolute example of European and Indian amalgamation of architectural features¹¹, consisting of lofty dome which is supported by the 12-pillar column erected on the platform of 3.66 meters¹² high, the dome is consummate with an ornamentation of army cap and floral decoration. The central burial chamber is made of white marble¹³ and bears the bosom of Lord Cornwallis with a Hindu and a Muslim man on either side shown in the attitude of lamentation.



1.3 Tomb of Henry Derozio located at the South Park Street Cemetery, Calcutta

The tomb of youngest teacher of the era is situated in the south street park cemetery¹⁴, Calcutta, one of the greatest intellectual of 19th century who died in India in 1831¹⁵, possesses amazing blend of architecture constructed with the combination of white stone and white marble.

It is flaunting the construction of few meters high raised rectangular platform having the squared shaped marble stone tablet at its center showing the details about him along with his qualities. This monument was restored by the government of Bengal in year 1978 as inscribed on the Marble tablet stationed at the bottom of the grave, At the northern most side it also has headstone with the marble statue of Sir Henry Derozio built on the squared shaped upright stone giving the same details about him.

From the study of the graves of these colonial personalities it is clear that in composition of graves during colonial period they do not follow the proper pattern of construction in giving architecture in them. All graves have variant architecture the common thing is that they are made up of stone or marble, have base stone, headstone and tablet giving details about the birth and death of the deceased person.

In like manner when it comes for the study of massive cemeteries all the graves are different in shape is size what is common in the material used in composition of these graves. Some are compact while others are massive. Some bears the names of manufacturing companies while others don't even have the names of deceased person as they got eroded by the wheel of time.

Findings about different Architecture.

On survey most distinctive finding was that every grave has different architecture, The colonial legacy on one hand gives details about deceased person on other hand it shows magnificent artistic work of Indian mansion of that time. Some graves are so strong that there were no single cracks on their principal body while other are on the threshold of deterioration.

Some graves were made of stone and some are of marble. They possess different headstones which gives details about the deceased. Certain graves are of soldiers of different regiments and their families. Generally, graves of children are compact and some are so massive with the boundaries occupying area. But at present the condition of maximum number of graves are on the verge of deterioration but still showing its strength and architectonics in unique way.

Need for restoration

The colonial-era cemeteries are in really in stage of desolation. It's painful to see how this architecture heritage is being devastated and allowed to ruin. There is trespass inside heritage premises and confine, Headstones stolen, graves exposed to filth and dirt, far and wide weeds growing all around and all over the places being dug up or covered over.

I have no words to explain this apathy. If no restoration is done, we will lose this prized heritage of those living thousands of miles away". Many new agencies are working for the Restoration of Nicholson Cemetery¹⁶ situated near the Kashmiri Gate Metro station to by the INTACH¹⁷, a specialized agency with competence in heritage conservation, will carry out the restoration work.

Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that these are the rich cultural heritage of our country in field of architecture and their architectural preservation and restoration should always be the first port of call before the possibility of demolition is even considered, because once it is gone it can never come back in its original form. A great deal of this heritage is in severe state of decay. The development of India's conservation movement has largely been fueled by this architecture and by a handful of homegrown initiatives but in the sustention of these colonial architecture taken as a whole, India's cultural heritage may be the richest in the world, but the realization specially in this excellent architecture that can be said as massive asset which requires management has yet to be fully appreciated.

These Important heritages further help to strengthen the historic relationship between Britain and India through conservation Because till date many British citizen visits the memorable graves of their Families.

At Last, I feel that There is the need to do something very important for the families of thousands who lie 'gone but not forgotten' in India."

I have taken the opportunity for the transfer of knowledge in conservation of these British benefaction of colonial era on a small scale.

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