

Heritage of Kerala

T H I R U V A N A N T H A P U R A M

Heritage of Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram

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Government of Kerala

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Message

Several buildings and precincts exist even now as remnants of Kerala's cultural tradition and architectural excellence. The value of such buildings and precincts are to be brought to the notice of the general public suitably. Lack of efforts in this regard is the major reason for the increasing trend in demolishing such buildings. Once a heritage monument is lost it will be an irreparable loss forever. Spoiling the heritage buildings will amount to a crime committed to the posterity. The Kerala State Town and Country Planning Department has made an attempt to identify the buildings and precincts having heritage value throughout the State as per the advice of the Art and Heritage Commission. The information gathered from the capital district as part of this is now being released as an initial step.

It gives pleasure that the book reveals a number of heritage properties around us, which we are ignorant about. Let this book create awareness among the public regarding some of the existing remnants of the historic, cultural and architectural importance of the district.

Thiruvananthapuram
20.02.2008

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Foreword

In a fast developing society there is a risk of being cut off from once historical moorings due to busy pursuit of carriers. Also as locations get developed there is a blind rush to go in for short-term gains by ignoring heritage values and focus on creation of infrastructure which destroys heritage sites or diminishes their worth.

At the same time it is the developing society which needs to strengthen its organic linkages with the past and learnt from the aesthetic, cultural and historical heritage so that the present and the future are able to maintain a meaningful continuity with the past. It is necessary to protect ageless creations which have an eternal value both from the rapacious onslaught of modern day buccaneers as well as from the blind apathy of the ignorantia.

It is felt that this can be achieved more by sensitisation and awareness building than by regulation. The Town and Country Planning Department has taken the first significant step in this direction. Acting on the advice of the Art and Heritage Commission, the Department has made an earnest attempt to identify and document sites and monuments of heritage value in Thiruvananthapuram district. Being a pioneering venture it may have omissions and deficiencies. But on the same time, it has the material to stimulate interest and open up the past for broader understanding and deeper study.

It is intended to cover other districts also in due course. Therefore, the Town and Country Planning Department seeks critical feedback and suggestions from the readers of this document for implementing the quality.

Thiruvananthapuram
10.02.2008

S.M. Vijayanand IAS
Principal Secretary
Local Self Government Department
Government of Kerala

Preface

Heritages are very dear to everyone. Having a rich heritage is of course a matter of pride. Be it the art, literature, culture, monuments, music, built heritage, India has an enviable position in the heritage status. No doubt, our State too has its share to contribute.

As advised by the Art and Heritage Commission, the Department of Town and Country Planning has made an earnest effort to identify such buildings and precincts in Kerala, having heritage value. Though not exhaustive, the attempt is laudable. The heritage properties thus identified will be published for the information to the public and others who are having academic interest in the area.

The details of heritage properties in Thiruvananthapuram district are published in the present volume and the heritage properties in other districts will be published subsequently in the heritage series.

It is expected that this maiden attempt in the heritage series will sensitise the public about the need to conserve our rich heritage. Further, built heritages are standing testimony to history. Let's protect and preserve our rich heritage for the posterity.

Thiruvananthapuram
01-02-2008

P. Venugopal IAS
Editor in Chief and
Director
Information and
Public Relations Department
Government of Kerala

Introduction

Thiruvananthapuram has a prolonged history. Its importance was closely associated with the Padmanabha Swami Temple and the place was known by different names in the past of which Syanandapuram and Anandan Kadu were perhaps the more popular ones. In Varahapuram, written in the 6th century AD, the place is referred to as 'Syanandapuram' whereas in Mathilakom Records it is referred to as 'Thiruvananda Puram'.

Reference to places in the Malabar Coast (Gokarnam to Cape Comorin) could be found in the early Greek accounts of Megasthenes (306 - 289 BC).

During the period after the Cheras and the Perumals, the place now called Thiruvananthapuram was a part of Ayi Rajyam. In the beginning of the 9th century, Venad was a small country with headquarters at Kollam. By the 14th century, however, it became a powerful kingdom and the Ayi Rajyam was retrieved.

In the Almanac of 1881 (page 240), it could be seen that Thiruvananthapuram became a town in as early as 1049 AD. The growth of the town and that of the Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple were complementary. However, it came to prominence as a seat of power only during the reign of Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma (1729-1758). Marthanda Varma is regarded as the founder of modern Travancore and he annexed many neighbouring territories to Venad during his reign. He dedicated his kingdom to Sree Padmanabha Swami, the tutelary diety of the Royal Family in January 1750 AD. From that day onwards, he styled himself as 'Sree Padmanabha Dasan', meaning the servant of God Sree Padmanabha. By the end of the 18th century, Thiruvananthapuram became the capital of princely Travancore.

Marthanda Varma started constructing a Fort around the Temple of Padmanabha Swami in 1747 but it could be completed only in 1787 during the reign of Karthika Thirunal Dharma Raja (1758-1798). A number of new palaces and office buildings were built inside the Fort during the next two centuries, mainly by the Royal Family. Residence of the ordinary citizens, bazars and other institutions were constructed outside the Fort walls.

The Maharajas of Travancore were so interested in fine architecture that they contributed a lot in evolving a new architectural style for this land by encouraging to adapt replicable building techniques, materials and style from Europe and other countries. The palaces and other major buildings constructed during this period were testimonies for the fine craftsmanship that we had and to an architectural style that was responsive to climate, locally available building materials and to our culture.

Other than a few of the prehistoric cave structures and some important temples, most of the heritage buildings that survive today were constructed during the last two centuries. The location of most of these buildings are in and around the Fort area and this is a clear indication of the concentration of power and wealth in this area during the pre-Independence period.

The list of heritage buildings and precincts suggested in this report may not be exhaustive. However, omission of potential heritage properties, if any, could be included in the list later on.

It is expected that this list will enable the public to sensitise the need for conserving the rich built heritage for the present and future generation.

T.K. Jose IAS
Secretary
Local Self Government Department and
Chairman, Art and Heritage Commission
Government of Kerala

Background

India is among the very few fortunate countries in the world having inherited a rich heritage which is older than Indus Valley civilisation. Keeping in view the need to preserve this rich heritage, framers of our constitution had made requisite provision in the Constitution of India. Under the 'Fundamental Duties' it is provided:

'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.'

As advised by the Art & Heritage Commission, for the first time the Department of Town and Country Planning has made this effort to identify such buildings and precincts in Kerala. It is felt that being the first step, there is a need to create general awareness on the heritage of our State so as to sensitise the public at large on the worth of the rich heritage of our State.

The data was collected during different periods of time, mainly 2003 - 05, through the district offices of the Town and Country Planning Department. Primary surveys, secondary data collection and consultation with local people, local self government institutions and experts on the subject were done wherever available to collect the information. Historical, architectural, cultural and aesthetic aspects were looked into for identifying the heritage buildings/ structures and precincts. The efforts taken by Darley D.S. Mony, Town Planner and A. Ramachandran, then Deputy Town Planner and the supporting staff of the Regional Town Planning Office, Thiruvananthapuram deserve special mention.

Being the first attempt and the subject being too complex, errors might have been crept in the details collected. The list and details need not be complete and exhaustive too. It is expected that the readers of the document will point out such errors and furnish more details and documentary evidences, which will be helpful in refining this attempt.

Eapen Varughese
Chief Town Planner and
Member Secretary, Art and Heritage Commission
Government of Kerala

Accountant General's Office



Originally, this was the Government Law College building . The Office of the Accountant General, Kerala started functioning in this building. A new building was constructed in the premises in 1961. The superstructure of the double storey tiled roof building is made of rubble and bricks. Glazed as well as louvered windows are used. Semi circular arches are provided above doors. The room height of this building is quite large in both floors. Interior of the building is plastered and lime washed.

Year of Construction: 1913
Present Ownership: Government of India
Use
Original: Law College
Present: A.G.'s Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
by the side of M.G.Road, near
Statue Junction

Agriculture College



The building, situated on the southern side of Vellayani Lake, was one of the summer palaces of Travancore Maha Raja. The Arch openings and tiled roof add to the beauty of the building, which blends European and Kerala Architectures. Agriculture College functions here since 1955.

Year of Construction :

About 100 years old

Present Ownership:

Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Summer Palace of Travancore

Present: Agricultural College

Panchayat: Kalliyoor

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

By the side of Vellayani Lake,
near Thiruvallom

Aliyirakkam Mandapam



This Stone built Mandapam by the side of a narrow interior lane is surprisingly well maintained. Around the Mandapam there are some stone pillars.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years old

Present Ownership: Public land

Use

Original:

Present:

Municipality: Varkkala

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Structure

Location:

Near Chilakkoor Junction,
Varkkala

Ammachi Plavu



This jackfruit tree is legendarily connected with Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma Maharaja (1729-1758), who was once protected himself from the enemies by hiding in the hollow space of this tree. It is believed that Lord Sree Krishna, disguised as an old man, appeared and advised the Maharaja to hide inside the Ammachi Plavu. The trunk of the tree is protected and preserved.

Year of Construction:

Present Ownership: Travancore
Devaswom Board

Use

Original:

Present: Historical reminiscence

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

Located inside the Sreekrishna
Swami Temple at Neyyattinkara

Anandavilasom Palace



This was the residential palace built by Raja Visakom Thirunal. It is a double storey building constructed in a plot having 0.2710 ha area in Western and Kerala styles of Architecture. Burned bricks and rib tiles were used for construction. Polished Chinese tiles are paved on the floor.

Year of Construction: During the reign of Sree Visakam Thirunal (1880-1885 AD)

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original: Residential Palace of Sree Visakham Thirunal

Present: Office of State Bank of Travancore on lease

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At the south east side of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple near Nithyachelavu Bangalow

Anandavilasom Palace Outhouse



This outhouse was meant for the security guards of Anandavilasom palace. The two storey tiled roof structure supported by stone pillars has corridors on either sides. The eaves have decorative carvings.

Year of Construction: During the reign of Sree Visakham Thirunal (1880-1885 AD)

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original: Outhouse for security guards of Royal Family

Present: Office of State Bank of Travancore on lease

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

South east side of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple near Anandavilasom Palace

Ananthasayanam Hall



The hall, by the side of Thekkenada of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple, was renovated recently since the portion of the old building was gutted in a devastating fire. The renovation was in tune with the architectural value of the building. A beautiful “Padippura” located at the western side blends well with the character of the building. The roof is crowned with six carved wooden gables. An ornamental wrought iron lamp-post enhances the appearance of the ground.

Year of Construction :

About 150 years back

Present Ownership:

Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original: Kalyanamandapam

Present: Kalyanamandapam

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

South entry of Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple

Anjengo Fort



This was the first among the forts built by the British for establishing trade with Travancore. The T.S. Canal passing nearby was the waterways for commodity transportation. Laterite blocks are used for the construction. It is said that a tunnel route to sea existed in the south west corner of the Fort. The Central Archaeology Department declared the Fort as protected monument.

Year of Construction: Around 800 years old

Present Ownership:

Use

Original: Fort

Present: Used as a protected monument

Panchayat: Anchuthengu

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Anjengo, about eight kms from Kadakkavoor

Arumana Amma Veedu - Main Building and Annexure



It was the residence of one of the consorts of Maharajas. This became the Amma veedu of Dharmaraja (1758-1798), Balaramavarma (1798-1810) and Visakham Thirunal (1880-1885). The root of this Ammaveedu is at Vellankodu Desham of Kanyakumari District. The three storey main building facing Arattu road is constructed in colonial style architecture. It has arch entrance gates. The tile roofed annexure building is of typical Kerala style Architecture.

Year of Construction: Main Building - More than 150 years old. Annexure -More than 100 years old.

Present Ownership: Private Individual

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Private Institutions

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near West Fort, by the side of Arattu Road

Aruvikkara Temple



“Saptha Mathrukkal” is the deity of the temple. The temple is situated in a rock, on the bank of Killi River. The Aruvikkara Dam, which is the main source of drinking water for Thiruvananthapuram city, is very close to this temple. The temple and the Namaskara mandapom are square in shape and the roofing is done using fish-scaled tiles. The roofing of ancillary buildings is done with Mangalore tiles.

Year of Construction :

More than 200 years old

Present Ownership:

Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Aruvikkara Dam, at a distance of 20 kms from Thiruvananthapuram City

Aruvippuram Temple and Cave



The historic place is the meeting point of three village's viz. Perunkadavila, Perumpazhuthoor and Neyyattinkara. The River Neyyar is flowing by the side of this sacred place. It was in this holy ground that Sree Narayana Guru and Sree Chattambi Swamy, great social reformers of Kerala, have embraced ascetic life for spiritual enlightenment. The consecration of an idol of "Siva" in the temple by Sree Narayana Guru has paved way for the social reformation in the State. This temple was built to register his protest against the social evils like untouchability prevailed in the society.

Year of Construction : 1888

Present Ownership: SNDP Yogam

Use

Original: Temple and Cave

Present: Temple and Cave

Panchayat: Perunkadavila

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Aruvippuram, near Perumpazhuthoor, Neyyattinkara

Attingal Palace & Premises



The palace was the residence of ladies of Travancore Royal Family. The Thiruvarettukavu Devi Temple, a family temple of the Royal Family of Travancore, is situated in this premises. Even today, “Ariyittu Vazha”, the main festival in this temple, is conducted by the Maharajah of Travancore. Avanipuram, the Sree Krishna Temple and a small Siva Temple are also in the Palace Complex. The building complex is in typical Kerala style architecture and the main Palace is an *Ettukettu*. Laterite blocks, stone blocks and lime mortar are used for the construction.

Year of Construction: about 150 years old

Present Ownership: Palace - Private;
Temple and Kalyanamadapam - Travancore
Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Palace

Present: Hospital, kalyanamadapam,
residences etc.

Municipality: Attingal

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Precinct

Location:

Located in the southern side of
Attingal-Kadakkavoor road near
Thiruvarettukavu Temple

Ayurveda Maternity Hospital, Poojappura



Originally it was a dance school. In 1951, the Ayurveda Maternity Hospital started functioning in the building. This single storey building had veranda all around the building. Now the veranda has been covered and converted into rooms. In front of the building, there is a statue of Shiva in cosmic dance posture.

Year of Construction: About 100 years old

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Dance School

Present: Government Ayurveda Maternity Hospital

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Poojappura Police station, at a distance of 0.5 km from Poojappura junction, by the side of Poojappura-Thirumala Road

Ayyappankavu Temple



This very old palace temple, situated near Kilimanoor Palace, is built in typical Kerala style with Chuttambalam and Nalambalam. The Padippura and Anakkottil are the notable features of the temple.

Year of Construction :

More than 200 years old

Present Ownership:

Kilimanoor Palace

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Kilimanoor

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Kilimanoor Palace

Balaramapuram Vazhiyambalam



Such structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were the waiting and resting places for travellers. As there was no vehicular transport in that era, people walked all the way to reach their destinations. During their prolonged journeys, they spent their nights in Vazhiyambalams and kept their luggage and goods on Chumaduthangis constructed nearby. The structure is constructed with stone pillars and stone sheet roof.

Year of Construction : More than a century back

Ownership : Government land

Use

Original: Wayside Inn

Panchayat: Balaramapuram

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Structure

Location:

By the side of Balaramapuram-Vazhimukku Road, 0.5 km from Balaramapuram

Bank House



Built in 1923, the building is one among the ‘magnificent three’ in Vellayambalam-Vazhuthacaud road. This was once the headquarters of the State Bank of Travancore. The building is constructed in the British Colonial style. The double storey tile roofed building has a porch and many arch openings.

Year of Construction: 1923

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original : Bungalow

Present: Office of the Police Department

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

In the Vellayambalam Vazhuthacaud road near Police Headquarters

Barton Hill Bungalow



The building was named after Mr. Barton, who was the Chief Engineer of the State Engineering Department. This was the official residence of Engineers of the Department. This two storey building has verandas in all sides. The first floor has tiled roof and the floor is made of wooden joists and planks. Rooms have wooden ceiling. Semicircular arches are provided above wooden doors and partially glazed windows. In the single storey portion, fish scale tiles and in the double storey portion, Mangalore pattern tiles are used for roofing. Some stone pillars of about three feet height, with carvings are seen in the compound of the building.

Year of Construction: 1897

Present Ownership: Institute of Management in Government, Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Bungalow

Present: Guest House of Institute of Management in Government(IMG)

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Barton Hill, near Government Law College

Bell Heaven Palace



This was the residence of one of the consorts of Maharajah Sree Moolam Thirunal (1886-1924). The Headquarters of Southern Air Command had functioned here. Now this is the Guest House of Reserve Bank of India. The three storey main portion of the building is constructed in typical colonial style architecture. Decorative eave boards add to the beauty of the building.

Year of Construction:
More than 100 years old
Present Ownership:
Reserve Bank of India
Use
Original: Residence
Present: Guest House

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Vellayambalam, near
Kowdiar Palace

Bhajanapura Malika



This building was formerly used for Bhajan during Navarathry and other festivals. The members of the Royal Family stayed here during Bhajan times. The elongated building situated in 0.2737 ha of land is in Kerala style. Presently it is a marriage hall.

Year of Construction: : During the reign of Swathy Thirunal (1829 - 1847)

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original : Used for Bhajan during Navarathri and other festivals

Present : Marriage Hall

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Southern side of

Sree Padmanabha Swamy

Temple close to Kuthiramalika

Bhakthivilasom Bungalow



This mansion was built during the reign of Sree Moolam Thirunal (1886-1924). Divan Sri Sankara Subba Iyer was the first person to live in this building. Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer and Sri. P.G.N. Unnithan, the former Divans of Travancore lived in this bungalow. All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram has been functioning in this building since 1952. This beautiful double storey tiled structure was built in combination of Ionic and fluted columns.

Year of Construction: About 100 years old
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala, but now given to All India Radio on lease
Use
Original: Palace
Present: All India Radio, Government of India

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

By the side of Vazhuthacaud-Jagathy Road

Bishop's House



This beautiful double storey building at Vellayambalam is the Bishop's House of the Latin Catholics. The building is constructed in a typical colonial style and is painted white. The ornamented gateposts at the entrance, the columned verandahs, the garden and the general ambience of the building are very appealing.

Year of Construction: 1939

Present Ownership: Thiruvananthapuram Diocese

Use

Original: Bishop's House

Present: Bishop's House

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vellayambalam Junction

Brahman Kovil



The deity of the temple is single faced Brahma. The ancient shrines are believed to be constructed in 12th Century. This is a stone temple. Roofs and pillars are made of beautifully chiselled rocks. The temple has Chuttambalam, Mandapam and a Sreekovil.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years old

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Mithranandhapuram, the south west corner of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Chempazhanthy Gurukulam



Birthplace of Sree Narayana Guru. A portion of the original residence is protected as a monument. The two-room structure has mud walls and thatched roof.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years

Present Ownership: S N Trust

Use

Original: Residence of Sree Narayana Guru

Present: Protected monument maintained by SN Trust

Panchayat: Sreekaryam

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Chempazhanthy

Chowara Sreedharma Sastha Temple



The temple has an age of about 500 years. The presiding deity of the temple is Sreedharma Sastha. The walls and roofing of the buildings are reconstructed recently, retaining the heritage value.

Year of Construction :

About 500 years back

Present Ownership:

Ayyappa Sewa Sangam

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Kottukal

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

About one kilometre south of Chowara Junction on top of a hillock

CSI Church, Palayam



This stately church building washed in white is located inside a very big compound. The church was dedicated for divine worship by the bishop of Madras (Church of England) in 1859. A cemetery also is located in the premises. The flooring of the building is made of wood panels. King post wooden trusses hold the roof up with fish scales cover in a rather interesting fashion. Structurally the building is sound and is well maintained. An extension to the main building was made in 1970.

Year of Construction: 1859
Present Ownership: Church of South India, Central Kerala Diocese
Use
Original: Church
Present: Church

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Palayam, opposite to EMS Square

Cliff House



The building, located in vast premises, would have been the residence of British officials. Now it is the residence of State Ministers. The double storey building has influence of western style Architecture. Columned verandas, large wooden windows and doors make this palatial building very attractive.

Year of Construction: Around 100 years old
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Residential
Present: Residential Bungalow of ministers

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Nandancode. The Bungalow itself is a major landmark in the locality

Commissioner's (Police) Office



The traditional style single storey building was constructed as a dispensary and hospital for the staff of the Residency in the 1890s. Now the City Police Commissioner's office is housed here.

Year of Construction: 1890s

Present Ownership: Department of Police, Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Dispensary

Present: Office of the Police Commissioner Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Close to the Thycaud Stadium

Connemmara Market Gate



This market entrance gate was built during the reign of Sree Moolam Thirunal, in memory of the visit of Mr. Connemera, the Governor of Madras in 1888. The entrance gate has a pointed arch and is constructed in dressed granite stones. Pillars are in Ashlar masonry and is plastered and painted red. Fish scale tiles are used for roofing.

Year of Construction: 1900
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Market Gate
Present: Market Gate

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Structure
Location:
At Palayam

East Fort



The construction of fort around the Padmanabha Swami Temple was started in 1747 by Maharaja Marthanda Varma. It was completed in 1787 during the reign of Dharma Raja. The Fort gate in the present form was constructed in between 1875 and 1900. The Fort Gate is occupying 20 cents of land and was constructed with square granite blocks. Height of the Fort wall is about 15 feet.

Year of Construction: 1747-1787
Present Ownership: Department of Archaeology
Use
Original: Fort Gate
Present: Fort Gate

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Structure
Location:

East Fort itself is a major landmark in the city

Fine Arts College



Originally the School of Arts, it became College of Fine Arts in 1976. This, along with other buildings of the same period located in the same road, gives a special character to the Statue - LMS road. The building was renovated by Public Works Department in the late 70s and considerable changes were made to the structure except its front. Pointed Arches, colour code and the columned verandahs give a fine character to the building.

Year of Construction: 1889
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: School of Arts
Present: College of Fine Arts

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Palayam, adjacent to the Public Library

Fort Girls High School (Sanana Mission)



Started in 1864 during the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal. In 1914, the original building of Sanana Mission school collapsed due to heavy rain and the present building was built. The historic significance of the school is that this was one of the first schools setup in Travancore to encourage women's education. This is perhaps the first non-Hindu institution came up inside the Fort premises. There are verandas at the front and back of this building and the interior walls are plastered. Segmental arches are provided above the doors and windows. A number of other buildings have come up in the school premises.

Year of Construction: 1914
Present Ownership: Sanana Mission
Use
Original: School
Present: Aided Private School

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Inside the Fort and opposite to
Kerala Agro Industries
Corporation Office

Fort High School



This two storey structure was once the Murajapa Pura of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple. The school was established in 1875 and extension to the main building was made in 1937. This tiled roof building is more than 150 years old.

Year of Construction : More than 150 years

Ownership: The land is owned by the Government, but has been given on lease to the School Management

Original Use: Murajapa pura

Present Use: Aided Private School

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

This School is located within the Fort, adjacent to Vettakkorumakan Temple

Fort Hospital



The building is believed to have constructed 200 years back. The single storey tiled roof building, having veranda all around, is constructed in typical Kerala Style Architecture.

Year of Construction :

More than 100 years old

Present Ownership:

Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Hospital

Present: Hospital

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

This building is located at the north west of the Fort, near Punnapuram Junction

General Hospital



The hospital constructed during the reign of Maharaja Ayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880) was formerly known as Civil Hospital. Initially the civil hospital was under the control of palace physician. This is a combination of three buildings inter connected by covered passages and verandas around. Segmental arches are used above the wooden doors and windows. The walls are made up of bricks, plastered and whitewashed on both faces. Wooden ceilings are provided. A number of new buildings have come up in the premises in contrasting styles.

Year of Construction: 1866

Present Ownership: Directorate of Health Service, Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Hospital

Present: Hospital

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At General Hospital Junction

Gladston Lodge



Barrister G.P. Pillai constructed the building in honour of the British Prime Minister, W.E. Gladston. Barrister G.P. Pillai, an ardent Gandhian, was one among the founders of Malayali Memorial and Editor of the English Daily 'Madras Standard'. The single storey building is built in typical Kerala style architecture with gabled roof and long verandas. Now the building is the recruitment office of the Indian Army.

Year of Construction :

About 100 years old

Present Ownership:

Indian Army

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Recruitment Office of Army

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

By the side of Poojappura-
Tirumala Road, near
Vijayamohini Mill

Golf Club – the club building and the premises



The Golf Club was set up here in 1882. Formerly Maharajas of Travancore utilised this area for hunting. The beautiful old building is situated in the middle of a green location having 10.117 ha. The elegantly designed single storey building is rich with wooden carvings.

Year of Construction: 1882
Present Ownership: Golf Club
Use
Original: Golf Club
Present: Golf Club

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Precinct
Location:
At Jawahar Nagar, Kowdiar

Government Arts College



The college originally was part of The Maharaja's College. It was separated from the parent institution in 1924 to house the Arts Departments and named The Maharaja's College of Arts. In 1949, with the introduction of Intermediate course, the institution became the University Intermediate College and later upgraded to a first grade college, the Government Arts College in 1971. The architecture of the building is typical of educational buildings constructed during the British rule. Symmetrical arches are used to span doors and windows. Flooring is with clay tiles and the roofing is with fish scale tiles. The exterior is plastered and painted brick red.

Year of Construction: 1900 - 1910
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Educational Institution
Present: Educational Institution

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Located close to Thycaud Sastha Temple and Swathy Thirunal Music College, the Arts college itself is a landmark of the area

Halzian Palace/ Kovalam Palace



The building was constructed in 1932 by Valiyakoyithampuran, husband of Regent Maharani Sethulekshmi Bhai. The land was purchased by Valiyakoyithampuran from the British General Kallan. The Government took over the building in 1967. The palace, also called the Kovalam Palace, is built in European style. This two-storey palace was constructed using dressed granite blocks. Arch openings were provided for verandas and arch supports were made over arched windows. The architecture, location and setting up by the beach make the palace truly magnificent.

Year of Construction: 1932

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use :

Original: Palace

Present: Palace

Panchayat: Vizhinjam

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

At Kovalam Beach, adjacent to Asoka Hotel

Holy Angels' Convent



Holy Angles' School was started in 1880 and the building was constructed in 1885. Later the school was upgraded to Higher Secondary School. The two storey building is built in traditional Kerala style with plastered walls and slop roof.

Year of Construction : 1880

Present Ownership: Holy Angels Convent
Use

Original: School

Present: School

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Convent Road, near
General Hospital

Iron Villa Park



The Park is now called Sree Chithira Tirunal Park. In January 26, 1939, Maharajah Ganga Singhji Bahadur, King of Bikaner, laid stone for the statue of Sree Chithira Tirunal. Later Maharajah of Dholpur unveiled the statue. Around the statue there is inscription in four languages regarding the temple entry proclamation. The official emblem of Travancore and pictorial representation of Temple Entry Proclamation can be seen in the pedestal of the statue. There was a beautiful Iron Bungalow in this compound having 0.4950 ha. land. Later it was demolished and the park was made.

Year of Construction: 1939

Ownership:

Use:

Original: Iron Villa

Present: Sree Chithira Tirunal Park

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

Inside the Fort and opposite to the KSRTC Garage and Sanskrit School

Kaimanam Vazhiyambalam



These structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were used as waiting and resting places for people traveling from various parts mainly for trade and commerce. Since there was no vehicular transport available in that era, people walked miles and miles from their places to destinations. During their prolonged journeys, they spent their luggage and goods on chumaduthangis constructed on the side of almost all Vazhiyambalams. The structure is made of rubble pillars and rubble sheet roof. A radio kiosk is situated in the front portion which obstructs the vision of the Vazhiyambalam. The structure is strong. It requires protection.

Year of Construction : More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Government land Use

Original: Wayside Inn

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Structure

Location:

Located by the side of
Kaimanam- Pappanamcode Road
near KSRTC Central Works

Kallarakkal House At Poovar



This is an ancient Muslim Tharavadu (family house) at Poovar. The then Karanavar of this Tharavadu named Pookamoosa Haji had once given shelter to Marthandavarma, the Maharaja of Travancore from enemies. Marriages in this tharavadu are felicitated by the Royal family. Now this tharavadu is divided and a major portion including Nilavara (cellar) is demolished. The building is constructed with rubble masonry. The roof is of wooden truss and tiles. A portion of the wall is made of wood.

Year of Construction : More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Private use
Use

Original: Residence

Present: Residence

Panchayat: Kanjiramkulam

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

At 100 m from Poovar Junction towards the beach

Kammattom



Originally the building was a hospital for mental health. Later the Kammattom, (mint) began here when the hospital was shifted to Oolampara in 1903. Now the printing of stamps and stamp papers are done here. The single storey tiled roof structure was made in combination of Kerala and European styles of Architecture. Fish scaled tiles are used for the roofing.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use:

Original: Hospital

Present: Press

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Ganapathy Temple and opposite to Ophthalmic Hospital

Kanakakkunnu Palace



The magnificent palace atop the Kanakakkunnu Hill was built during the reign of Sree Moolam Thirunal (1885-1924). The palace hosted feasts especially for foreigners. The new block at the southern side was built during the period of Sree Chithira Thirunal. The premises is used for cultural programmes, exhibitions etc. during festival seasons. The design is greatly influenced by the Western style. This majestic brick building has large windows, doors and halls.

Year of Construction: Around 100 years back

Present Ownership: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Palace for hosting parties

Present: Government sponsored programmes are held here

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Adjacent to the Museum compound and on the way to Vellayambalam from Palayam

Kaniyangara Temple



This is one of the oldest Kali temples in the district. This tiled building in indigenous style is small but elegant.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Local residents are managing the temple

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vayyamoola near Vallakkadavu and inside the Airport compound

Karuvelapura Malika and Chellam Vaka



This is a combination of several buildings constructed during various periods. Karuvelam, means Treasury (chellam vaka) was functioning at the southern side of Karuvelapura building. There is a clock tower in the middle of the building upon which the famous 'Methan Mani' was fixed during the reign of Dharma Raja. The clock tower was modified during the reign of Swathi Thirunal. It is a two storey Kerala Architectural style building. The floors are wooden and are supported by stone columns of 15 feet height.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years old

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Use

Original: Chellam vaka was a Treasury till the time of Swathi Thirunal. Karuvelapura was the office of the Treasury staff

Present: Part of the building is used as office of the Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

This is located near the eastern entrance of the Padmanabha Swami Temple

Kazhakkootam Mahadeva Temple



This temple is one of the eleven Mahadeva temples situated in Travancore and was receiving a daily grant of eighteen and a quarter PAKKA (about 1.5 litre) of rice and KOPPU (grocery, oil etc.) from the Travancore Royal Family. The Siva Prathista (idol) in this temple is in the form of a Tapaswi (ascetic mood). The structure of the temple is the best example of Kerala's traditional architecture. The main portion of the temple including Sreekovil and Mughamandapam are built with large blocks of laterite and wooden beams for superstructure and copper sheet lining in three tiers for roofing. There are many wooden carvings and art works in the first and second tier of the sreekovil, which include characters from Hindu mythology.

Year of Construction: Around 300 years old

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Kazhakkootam

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

About 100 metre north of Kazhakkootam Junction

Kerala Water Authority Building



The Water Supply scheme for Thiruvananthapuram City was started in 1933 during the reign of Sree Chithira Thirunal Maharajah. The building was designed by Balakrishna Rao, Engineer of Travancore. For this scheme, water taken from Aruvikkara was purified at Vellayambalm. The project was named as *Wellington Water Supply Scheme* by Sree Chithira Thirunal. The main building is a double storey one with tiled roof.

Year of Construction: 1933

Present Ownership:
Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Office
Present: Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
At Vellayambalam, opposite to
Jawahar Balabhavan

Kilimanoor Palace



This Palace gave birth to many distinguished personalities who figured in the field of art and literature. Artist Raja Ravi Varma, Artist Rajaraja Varma Koyithampuran, Artist Mangala Bai Thampuratti, Artist Ravi Varma Thampuran, Dr. Godha Varma Thampuran and Artist Bhavani Thampurati were among them. The members of the Royal Family occupy the palace. This Palace complex consists of double and single storey structures, built in combination of Kerala and Western Styles. There are a number of row houses in the rear side of the main Building.

Year of Construction: 1728

Present Ownership:

Royal Family of Kilimanoor

Use

Original: Palace

Present: Palace, Art Gallery etc.

Panchayat: Kilimanoor

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Buildings

Location:

At Kilimanoor

Koppupura



The building was the storing place for articles and costumes used for cultural performances. The single storey small tiled Kerala style building situated in 0.0399 ha of land has artistically carved out ornamental wooden ceiling.

Year of Construction: 18th century
Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust
Use
Original: Storage place for dresses
Present: Part of Palace Museum

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Inside the Kuthiramalika premises

Kovalam Poets' Memorial Building



The Kovalam poets - Ayyappilli Asan and Ayyanippilli Asan - lived here in 15th century. They wrote 'Ramakadha paattu and Bharatham Paattu' respectively. Dr. P.K. Narayana Panicker compiled these books and National Book Stall published it in 1970. The small building is preserved by the department of Archeological survey of India.

Present Ownership:
Government of Kerala

Use
Original: Memorial Building
Present: Memorial Building

Panchayat: Vizhinjam

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:
Building

Location:
In Kovalam tourist centre

Kovilloor Vazhiyambalam



Such structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were used as waiting and resting places for people traveling from various parts mainly for trade and commerce. Since there was no vehicular transport available in that era, people walked miles and miles from their places to destinations. During their prolonged journeys, they spent their nights in these Vazhiyambalams and kept their luggage and goods on Chumaduthangis constructed on the side of almost all Vazhiyambalams. The building and the roof truss are made mainly of wood.

Year of Construction : More than 100 years old

Ownership : Government land

Panchayat: Vellarada

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Structure

Location:

Located near Kovillur Ambalam Junction

Kowdiar Palace



This palace was the abode of the late Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal Bala Rama Varma and his family. The Royal Family is still residing in this palace and it is not open to the public. The palace is a double storey building with tile roofing having lots of segmental arch openings. A fusion of Kerala and western styles of architecture can be viewed here. The palace is well maintained.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore

Use

Original: Palace

Present: Palace

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Kowdiar, the Palace itself is a landmark of the city

Koyikkal Palace



This ancient palace is famous in the history of Kerala as the official residence of Perakom Thavazhi (The maternal lineage), especially of Umayamma Rani of the Venad Royal Family. Here, a double storey traditional Nalukettu building with slanting gabled roofs, an inner courtyard and two museums of folklore and numismatics have been set up by the Department of Archaeology. The 'Gajendra Moksham', one of the renowned mural paintings in Kerala, is depicted on the ground floor of the Palace. A museum with antique sculptures, paintings and bronze articles is housed in the building. The palace shows the general characteristic of an old typical Kerala style house. The gabled roof, the corridors, the Nalukettu style and wooden character represent the medieval architecture of Kerala.

Year of Construction: Dates back to the 15th century

Present Ownership: Department of Archaeology from 1979

Use

Original: Palace

Present: Folklore and Numismatic Museum

Municipality: Nedumangadu

Taluk: Nedumangadu

Category:
Building

Location:
Located 18 kms away from Thiruvananthapuram, on the way to the Ponmudi Hill Station and the Kuttalam Waterfalls

Krishnavilasom Palace



This was the palace of Sree Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma (1885 - 1924). This magnificent two storey tiled roof building situated in 0.2320 ha. of land was constructed blending styles of Colonial and Kerala architecture. Sash windows and iron grills are used.

Year of Construction: 1885 - 1924
Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore
Use
Original: Residence of Royal Family
Present: Kept vacant

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort, South East side of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple and close to Kuthiramalika

Krishnavilasom Palace-Outhouse



It was the outhouse for the security guards of the Krishnavilasom Palace of Sree Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma (1885 - 1924). This double storey tiled roof building is constructed in Kerala style architecture. The eaves are decoratively carved in wood.

Year of Construction: 1885-1924
Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore
Use
Original: Outhouse
Present: Kept vacant

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort, South East side of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple and close to Krishnavilasom Palace

Kumaran Asan Smarakom



The building was constructed in memory of Mahakavi Kumaran Asan, one of the great Malayalam poets and a social reformer. Asan Memorial Building consists of two thatched huts. One of the huts is about 100 years old and the other is about 85 years. One of the buildings has a single room. It is called 'Otta Muri Chavadi', where Kumaran Asan had done his literary creations. The two old huts used by Mahakavi Kumaran Asan are situated in the south-west portion of the plot. These huts have walls made of mud and thatched roof structure. The wall of the Museum complex is made of stones and bricks and has a traditional Kerala style. A pucca single storey building of Kerala style, built recently behind the museum, is used for library and administrative division.

Year of Construction: 100 years back
Present Ownership: Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Residence of Mahakavi Kumaran Asan
Present: Kumaran Asan National Institute of Culture and Asan Memorial Museum

Panchayat: Mangalapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

Located on the Northern side of Mangalapuram junction in National Highway 47

Kundamankadavu Bridge



This iron bridge, across Karamana River, was constructed during the reign of Maharaja Rama Varma under the administration of Shankara Subba Iyer, and was completed in 1898. The bridge is an important link between either sides of Karamana River. Built with iron pipes and thick iron strips, this suspended bridge, an engineering miracle, is balanced by large, dressed stone blocks put on either end of the bridge.

Year of Construction: 1898

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Bridge

Present: Bridge

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Structure

Location:

Located at Kundamankadavu on Thiruvananthapuram - Kattakkada Road linking Thiruvananthapuram corporation and Neyyattinkara Taluk

Kuthiramalika



Kuthiramalika or Puthenmalika -one of the oldest among the Fort palaces -was built by Swathi Thirunal (1829-1847). He used the Ambari Mughappu of Kuthiramalika to write many of his famous lyrics. This building complex was opened to the public as museum in 1995. Outer verandas of this two-storey structure stand on stone pillars and most of the interior decorations are in wood. Wooden pillars are in Ionic and Corinthian style. Artistic works on the wooden ceiling are exemplary. This is perhaps the best maintained Fort Palace.

Year of Construction: More than 170 years old

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swami Trust

Use

Original: Royal Palace

Present: Museum

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort and at the East Nada of the Padmanabha Swami Temple

Kuvalaseery Vazhiyambalam



Such structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were used as waiting and resting places for people traveling from various parts mainly for trade and commerce. Since there was no vehicular transport available in that era, people walked miles and miles from their places to destinations. During their prolonged journeys, they spent their nights in these Vazhiyambalams and kept their luggage and goods on Chumaduthangi's constructed on the side of almost all Vazhiyambalams. The structure is constructed with stone pillars and stone sheet roofs. Now it is under the possession of a private person. Some carvings can be seen on pillars.

Year of Construction : More than 100 years back

Ownership : Government Land

Panchayat: Maranallur

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Structure

Location:

Located near Kuvalassery Mahadeva Temple near Oorottambalam

Kuzhi Malika



As the building is located below the ground level, it is called Kuzhi Malika. This was the residence of the female members of the Royal Family. The two storey tiled roof building has veranda on all sides with decorative wooden ceiling. The building, situated in 0.0653 ha of land, is constructed in Kerala style of Architecture, using laterite and mortar.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years old

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Use

Original: Residence of female members of the Royal Family

Present: It is a part of the Kuthira malika Museum

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort and in the Puthen Malika premises

Sreevaraham Lekshmi Varaha Moorthi Temple



Sree Lekshmi Varaha Moorthi Temple at Sreevaraham is an ancient temple. The main deity of the temple is Sree Lekshmi Varaha Moorthi, the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. It is the only one known temple in the South India having the particular incarnation. The temple constructed in typical Kerala style architecture consists of Sreekovil, Chuttambalam and Nalambalam.

Year of Construction:

More than 250 years back

Present Ownership:

Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At the south west side of Fort

Levi Building



The building was probably completed during the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880). The Maharaja had interaction with the officials here. The influence of western architecture is visible in this two storey tiled building. The beautiful building with cylindrical masonry pillars, staircases and interior wooden works is situated in 0.1406 ha.

Year of Construction: 1860-1880

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Use

Original: Office Building

Present: Kept vacant

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort and close to Kuthiramalika and Krishna-vilasom Palace

LMS Church



LMS Church (London Mission Society Church) was built in memory of Rev. Samuel Mater, a missionary who served in Travancore (1854 - 1880). The Western influence can very well be observed in the architecture of the building. It is a major landmark in the city. Pointed arches, louvered windows, exposed random rubble masonry and the dressed granite corners give the structure an elegant look. Interior walls are plastered and lime washed. The building has fish scale tile roofing and clay tile flooring.

Year of Construction: 1906

Present Ownership: South Kerala Diocese,
Church of South India

Use

Original: Church

Present: Church

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At the LMS junction opposite
to the Thiruvananthapuram
Corporation office

LMS Hostel



It is in line with the LMS Church and also known as Wills Hostel for Men. The building and the beautiful surroundings with large front yard and shade trees stand as an important landmark in the city. The structure has two storeys only at the central portion and other parts are single storey with tiled roofing. At the front and back of the building there are verandas. Rectangular brick columns support the roof above the verandas. The walls plastered and lime washed with windows painted green merge with the surroundings.

Year of Construction: 1899

Present Ownership: South Kerala Diocese,
Church of South India

Use

Original: Hostel

Present: Hostel

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

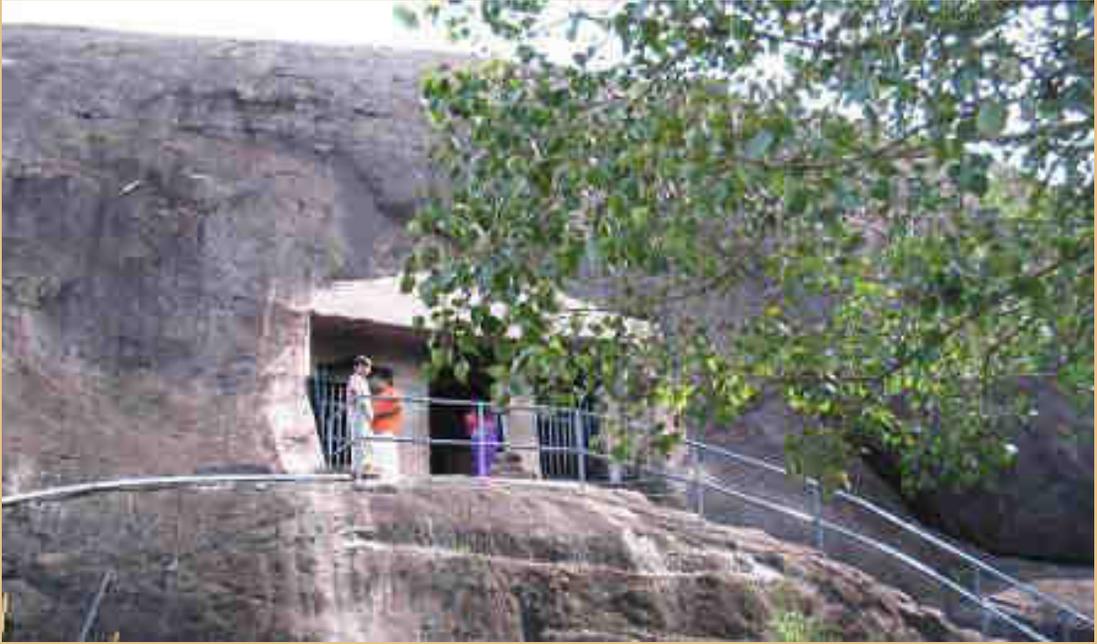
Category:

Building

Location:

Near LMS Church

Madavoorpara Stone Temple



Dated back to 850 AD, the Madavoorpara Temple has a Peedom (seat) and Siva Linga, carved in the rock with inner perambulatory space. Two images, one of Muruga and the other of Ganapathy are also carved on the walls. There is a Vattezhuth (archaic script) inscription in the temple. The temple and the Sivalinga are carved in stone. The height of Madavoor Para is about 1800 feet and the temple is situated 50 metres above ground level.

Year of Construction: 850 AD

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

By the side of a bye lane branching from Chempazhanthi -Pothencode road, near Kattayikonam

Madhava Rao Statue



Sir T. Madhava Rao etched his name in the history as Dewan of Travancore (1858 - 1872) through his noble services. His statue in front of the Secretariat building was the only Bronze-statue in Travancore for quite a long time. The statue erected during the reign of Sree Moolam Thirunal was unveiled by Kerala Varma Valiyakoyi Thampuran in 1894.

Year of Construction: 1894

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Statue

Present: Statue

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

The statue itself is a major landmark

Malayalam Department, University College



Initially this was the Maharaja's Women's College. This building was inaugurated on October 7, 1891. In 1923 the Women's College was shifted from here to Vazhuthacaud. This is a two storied tiled roof building with a basement floor of typical Kerala style architecture. In the cellar, semi circular arches and in other areas, flat arches are used. Brick walls are plastered and painted to look like bricks.

Year of Construction: 1891

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Maharaja's Women's College

Present: Malayalam Department of
University College

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Opposite to the University
College in the MG Road

Mandapam at Karamana



This structure was constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. It was used for performing rituals in precious occasions. Now the Chettiyan Community uses it for functions relating to 16th day rituals of the deceased. Constructed with stone pillars and stone sheet roofs, the structure is very strong.

Year of construction : More than 100 years old

Ownership: Now under the possession of Temple authority

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

Located at the side of Karamana River near Karamana Girls High School

Manimalakunnu Palace, Pothencode



The palace, situated in Manimalakkunnu near Pothencode Junction, was constructed during the regime of Maharani Sethu Lekshmi Bhai (1924-1931). The palace was a Film studio till the last decade. Exposed random rubble masonry with dressed granite corners gives an elegant look to the building. The interiors are plastered.

Year of Construction :
About 100 years old
Present Ownership:
Private Ownership

Use
Original: Palace
Present: Nil

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Structure

Location:
Located at the side of Karamana
River near Karamana Girls High
School

Mangattukadavu Vazhiyambalam



This was constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. It was used as waiting and resting place for travellers mainly associated with trade and commerce. Since there was no facility for vehicular transportation, people used to tread their destinations on foot. During night they would rest at Vazhiyambalams, keeping luggage and goods on nearby Chumaduthangis. The tiled roof rests over wooden truss. The wall has been renovated later.

Year of Construction : More than 100 years back

Ownership : Government Land

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

Located at Mangattukadavu
in Aramada Village

Manmohan Bungalow



The building was once probably used as a residence of British officials. Presently it is used as the residence of a State Minister. Located in a vast compound, the double storey building has semi circular arch openings in the verandas. The tiled roof adds much to the beauty of the structure. It retains its elegance even after the renovation.

Year of Construction: Around 100 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Residential Bungalow

Present: Residence of ministers

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Kowdiar, next to Raj Bhavan

Maruthankuzhy Dam



The dam was constructed across Killi River during the reign of Rani Gowri Parvathy Bai. The water from Killi River was taken to 'Padmatheertham' through 'Kochar' by constructing the dam at Maruthankuzhy. The Kochar was running along Edapazhinji, Jagathy, Valiyasala, Power House Road and Thakaraparambu. The dam was constructed using dressed granite blocks, supported with flat arches.

Year of Construction :

More than 200 years back

Present Ownership:

Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Dam

Present: Dam

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

At Maruthankuzhy Junction

Maruthur Mahadeva Temple



It is believed that the temple is about 1000 years old. Though it is renovated recently, the inner portion of Sreekovil and Balikallu are kept unchanged. An age old “chembakam” is reared by two concrete pillars in front of the temple. The sreekovil of the temple is round in shape and have a diameter of about five metres. The basement of the sreekovil is built with granite. The structure has brick walls and concrete conical shaped roof paved with fancy tiles. The chuttambalam is also reconstructed recently. The front door and mughamandapam are constructed in Kerala architectural style.

Present Ownership: Temple Trust

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Vizhinjam

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Temple

Location:

Situated on the eastern side of Vizhinjam-Balaramapuram road and is about three kilometre away from Chappath Junction

Mental Hospital at Oolampara



This hospital at Oolampara, near Peroorkada, was started in 1870 during the reign of Maharaja Sree Ayilyam Thirunal. Initially the hospital was functioned in the present General Hospital campus. The construction of the present hospital was completed in 1894. This campus is a vast area occupying a number of single storey tiled roof buildings.

Year of Construction: 1894
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Hospital
Present: Hospital

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

0.5 kilometre away from Peroorkada Junction. By the side of Peroorkada-Sasthamangalam Road

Mithrananda Kulam



This tank is used by the priests of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple. Separate entry and bathrooms are there for chief priests. After taking the bath chief priest could go directly to the temple through a stone paved path. Women are not allowed to use the tank.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original: Tank

Present: Tank

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

Close to the Western Gate and within the Fort

Model School



It is one of the oldest public school buildings in the capital. Western educational building style is adopted in its construction. There is a central corridor with classrooms on either side. Verandas are there both at the front and rear with semicircular arches supported by pillars. The exterior is plastered and painted brick red. Symmetrical arches are used to span doors and windows. Flooring is with clay tiles and the roofing is with fish scale tiles. The once vast compound is now greatly reduced and a number of modern buildings have come up around the old structure.

Year of Construction: 1910
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: School
Present: School and Training College

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Adjacent to the Government Arts College at Thycaud

Moodathu Madom



Moodathu Madom or Moovidathu Madom was the meeting place of three Madoms viz. Changanachery, Kilimanoor and Thiruvalla. It was the residence of the members of those families, which had matrimonial connections with the Royal Family of Travancore. The female members of the Royal Family of Travancore married from these families and it was a practice in those days to bring the selected boy to Thiruvananthapuram to impart the best education and to groom him to become a proper consort for the Princess. During this period he used to stay in the Moodathu Madom.

Year of Construction:

Present Ownership:

Use

Original: Rest House

Present: Almost collapsed

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Inside Fort wall and opposite to Sundara Vilasam Palace

Mudavanmughal Kottaram



Sree Moolam Thirunal Maharaja (1885-1924) constructed this beautiful palace for Sethu Lakshmi Bai. She lived in this palace. The building, also known as Sethalmond Palace, was handed over to the Government of Kerala in 1962. This palace, where the Sree Chitra Tirunal Research Centre functions, is a fine blend of European and Kerala architecture.

Year of Construction: 1900-1910
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Palace
Present: Sree Chitra Research Institute

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Near Poojappura Junction

Nagercoil Amma Veedu



It was the residence of the consort of Travancore Raja from Nagercoil. Still the members of the family use this as their residence. This is a complex structure with a main building, a two storey tiled roof building called bungalow, a Nalukettu and a small temple. The main building and the Nalukettu are linked with corridors.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Nagercoil Amma Veedu family

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Residence

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Perunthanni, by the side of Arattu Road

Nalanda



The Bungalow was originally known as 'Reddatiar Bungalow', which means 'red earth' in Scottish. English officials had resided in this Bungalow, situated in the hill called 'Manchadivila'. Sir. Simson, the Durbar Physician, was the last Englishman who resided here. The former Vice Chancellor of Travancore University, Prof. V.K. Nandan Menon changed the name of 'Reddatiar Bungalow' to 'Nalanda'. Now office of the State Institute of Languages functions in the building. The single storey building is made in typical Kerala style with cement-plastered walls.

Year of Construction :

More than 100 years back

Present Ownership:

Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Bungalow

Present: State Institute of Languages

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Nanthancode Junction

Nalukettu at Abhaya Gramom



This Nalukettu was transplanted on 24th November 1994, from Vaikkom in Kottayam district. The original building was Vaikkom Perumpallyyathu Mana, and it was dedicated to Abhaya. The original building, built in typical Kerala Architecture, is about 200 years old. The Nalukettu has a central courtyard and panelled wooden walls. The veranda around the building is supported by wooden pillars.

Year of Construction :

More than 200 years back

Present Ownership:

Abhaya

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Office

Panchayat: Malayinkil

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

At Abhaya Gramom, near
Thachottukavu

Napier Museum, East & West Gates and Band Stand



Probably the first building constructed as a museum in India. The design is a combination of traditional, western and north Italian styles. The setting of the building is impeccable and the open spaces and trees in the premises make it one of the most sought after recreational spaces in the city. Lord Napier who visited Travancore for the inauguration of the Secretariat building was disappointed with the style of the building and advised the British engineers to follow traditional style in future. Museum building constructed after that incident was dedicated to the memory of Lord Napier. The building is notable for the exquisite detailing of its elements and the colour code. Bricks are used for the superstructure. They are plastered and cross patterns are painted. Fish scale tile roofing, dressed granite flooring, wooden roof structure and the copper gutters add to the elegance of the building. The recently renovated band-stand has a popular radio system.

Year of Construction: 1873-75

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Art Museum

Present: Art Museum

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

The museum itself is a major landmark in the city

Nair Brigade, Palayam



The building constructed for Nair Brigade of British Army in 1868. Military Hospital and later the office of City Police Commissioner were functioned here. Now it is the Historic Museum of Kerala Legislative Assembly. The beautiful red building in western style with the front lawn delivers a majestic look.

Year of Construction : 1868

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Nair Brigade

Present: Now Historic Museum of Kerala Legislative Assembly

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Palayam, near Kerala Legislative Assembly Campus

Neyyattinkara Vizhippani Kottaram



This was the resting place of Maharajas while they travelled between Padmanabhapuram and Thiruvananthapuram. It is located by the side of Neyyar River and Srikrishna Swami Temple. The palace was built by Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma. The famous Ammachi plavu where he hid himself to escape from the enemies is nearby. Palliyara Bhagavathy was seated in this palace. Some of the buildings located in the premises have been demolished.

Year of Construction: 1729-1758

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Resting place of Maharajas

Present: Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Travancore Devaswam Board

Municipality: Neyyattinkara

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

Close to Sreekrishna Swami Temple, Neyyattinkara

Nithyachelavu Bungalow



The bungalow was constructed during the reign of Swathy Thirunal. It was used by the palace staff for managing day-to-day expenditure and maintaining accounts of the palace. The central portion of this building is built in double storey. Ceiling and panelling of the building are wooden.

Year of Construction: During the reign of Swathy Thirunal (1829 - 1847)

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabhaswami Temple Trust

Use Original: Used by the staff of palace

Present: KSRTC on rental basis

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort on the southern side

Padmatheertham Pond and ancillary structures



The sacred pond, Padmatheertham, is supposed to be as old as the Padmanabha Swamy temple. The pond occupies about 18 hectares. During the Pre-Independence period, water from the Killiyar was brought to this pond through 'Kochar' by constructing a bund at Maruthamkuzhy. It was running along Edapazhanji, Jagathy, Valiasala, Power House Road and Thakaraparambu. Upto Edapazhanji, the canal was covered with concrete slabs and after that, concrete pipes were laid to carry water. Separate canals were formed to Pathrakulam and from there to Thekkenamkara thodu for draining out water. Theerthapada Mandapam is constructed at the place of Pathrakulam.

Year of Construction: Ancillary structures are more than 200 years old

Present Ownership: Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Use

Original: Temple tank

Present: Temple tank

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Percinct

Location:

Pond of the Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple

Palayam Juma Masjid



This mosque is the developed form of the 'Cheria Thaikavu' built in 1813 for the British Indian Muslim soldiers who camped at Palayam. The mosque in the present form was inaugurated in 1967 by the then President of India, Zakkir Hussain. The co-existence of the mosque, the temple and the Church here stands as a symbol of communal harmony. Built in typical Islamic style, the mosque has four Minars at the four corners and many arch openings.

Year of Construction: Present structure built in 1967

Present Ownership: Mosque
Use

Original: Mosque

Present: Mosque

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At palayam

Palkulangara Devi Temple



The temple having reference in the 'Unnineeli Sandesam' written during 1350-1365 is one of the oldest Kali temples in the district. It is believed that the construction of the temple was done during the '*Anjathava*' (staying in disguisedly) period of Pandavas. The Dravidian style adoration is followed in the temple. The temple constructed in typical Kerala style architecture consists of Sreekovil, Chuttambalam and Nalambalam.

Year of Construction: More than 600 years back

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswam Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
At Palkulangara

Panchajanyam Kalyana Mandapom



This building was constructed around 1800 and was used as rice granary of the Padmanabha Swamy Temple. Presently the building is the dining space of the Panchajanyam marriage hall. The Government of Kerala uses the basement of the structure as ballot box depot. Wood is used liberally in the construction.

Year of construction: Around AD 1800
Ownership: Owned by Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust
Use
Original: Granary
Present: Dining hall of a Kalyana Mandapam

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Inside the Fort

Pandavan Para



This is one of the pre-historic Rock Caves of Kerala. The cave engravings belong to the late Neolithic period. It is believed that the Pandavas found their asylum here during their hiding period. This is a typical example of a natural cave formation. Considering its archaeological value, the Department of Archaeology declared this as a protected monument in 1987. The cave has some similarity to the Edakkal Caves in Wayanad.

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original:

Present: Protected Monument

Municipality: Neyyattinkara

Taluk: Neyyatinkara

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Perumkadavila, on the north-east side of Neyyattinkara - Kattakada road at about 25 km from Thiruvananthapuram city

Papanasini, Varkala



Varkala is popular as Dakshina Kasi with the presence of this holy spring, Janardhana Swamy Temple and Papanasam Beach. The holy spring originates from the Varkala Cliff is considered as sacred as Ganges. The natural spring of water is believed to have medicinal effect.

Present Ownership:
Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Natural Spring

Present: Natural Spring

Municipality: Varkala

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Papanasam Beach, near
Varkala

Parasurama Temple, Thiruvallom



The temple is believed to be constructed around 9th century AD. The idol of this temple is Prasurama. This temple is one of the few temples in South India, having idols of Hindu Trinity. The holy 'Balitharpana', an offering to the ancestors is done inside the temple. This temple is of Dravidian style, using dressed granite blocks. The main feature of the temple is the presence of two *Kodimarams* (Flag Posts), one in the front and the other in the eastern side.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Travancore Devasom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building Location:

At Tiruvallom, about 5 kms from East Fort

Pazhavangadi Kotta



During the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal a new road was constructed within the Fort from West Fort gate to East Fort gate. This gate was made at the same time.

Year of Construction:1873

Present Ownership: Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Fort Gate

Present: Landmark in the area

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Structure

Location:

Close to East Fort near Pazhavangadi Temple

Peroor Sree Krishna Temple



The deity of this temple is Lord Sree Krishna. The temple consists of Chuttambalam, Nalambalam, Anakkottil and Golden Flag Post. The main temple is circular in shape. There is no “Chuttuvilakku” in the Nalambalam as seen in other temples.

Year of Construction : 200 years back

Present Ownership:

Travancore Devaswam Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Ambalamukku at

Peroorkada

Peshkar Office



This building was used as the office of the Peshkar of Travancore. This tiled roof building has many small annexure constructed in Kerala style architecture. Laterite stone and mortar were used. Iron grills were provided for windows.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Treasury Building

Present: Tahasildar Office, Excise Office, Principal Sub Treasury etc.

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

Inside the Fort. On East Fort -
Air Port Road near Sree Chithira
Thirunal Maharaja Park

Post Master General Office



This was once the office of the Chief Engineer of Travancore. During 1933-34, Air Training Complex of Government of India was established here. Later in 1939, Sri Chitra Tirunal started the Engineering College in this building. In 1961, the College of Engineering was shifted to Sreekaryam. Now the Office of the Post Master General (PMG) functions here. In the garden of this building a time-old post box can be seen. This two-storey building is constructed blending the Kerala and European architectural styles. The front façade of the building is plastered and painted like brickwork. The central tower was once a clock tower. There are segmental arches in the ground floor and semi circular arches in the first floor.

Year of Construction: 1895

Present Ownership: Government of India
Use

Original: Chief Engineer's Office

Present: Post Master General Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At PMG Junction

Police Headquarters



The building, built in 1923 is one among the ‘magnificent three’ in Vellayambalam-Vazhuthacad Road. This is a double storey tiled roof building with arch openings. The building is typical of British colonial style. Gabled roof covered with Mangalore type tiles, sunshades and ornamental eave boards add to the beauty of the building.

Year of Construction: 1923
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Bungalow
Present: Police Headquarters

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
In the Vellayambalam -
Vazhuthacad road near
Althara Temple

Poojappura Mandapam



Location of this Mandapam meant for pooja must be the reason for getting the name Poojappura for this place. ' Poojavaypu' at the Poojappura Saraswathy Mandapam is famous. The carved stone pillars are the star attraction of the kalmandapam (a raised platform built in stone).

Year of Construction: Around 200 years old

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Pooja Mandapam

Present: Pooja Mandapam

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

At the Poojappura Junction

Public Library



This was the first State-owned library. In 1836, Swathi Thirunal granted Rs.1000 to the then Library Secretary for expediting the project. It was registered as a society with limited members in 1847. In 1894, it became the Public Library Association. In 1897, Government of Travancore took over the library and Maharaja Sree Moolam Tirunal opened it for the public. In 1900, the present library building was constructed as Victoria Jubilee Memorial. The State Government took over the library in 1948. Segmental arches spanning doors and windows, the front porch, balconies supported on corbelling granite stones, fish scale tile roofing and the wooden staircase make this Western style building very beautiful.

Year of Construction: 1900
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Library
Present: State Central Library

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Located in the MG Road close
to College of Fine Arts

Public Office Building



The building was built during the regime of Maharajah Aayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880). Offices of the Public Works Department, Revenue Department, Commissionerate of Excise, Civil Supplies Department, Architecture Department, Irrigation Department etc. are housed here. The two storey tiled roof building is a combination of Kerala and Mughal architecture.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Office
Present: Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Opposite to Museum

Punnakkal House



This building was built during the reign of Utharam Thirunal Marthanda Varma (1847 - 1860). Perhaps the first press of Travancore, “Kerala Vilasom Achukoodam”, was running in this building. The works of Swathithirunal and Irayimman Thampi were first printed in this press. This building is now sold to a private party and rented out to a number of families. This is a two-storey tiled roof building constructed in accordance of Kerala State architecture. Mortar and Laterite stones were used for construction. Wooden eaves are artistically carved. Slight alterations are made in later stage.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Office

Present: Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

At Punnakkal lane by the side of Punnakkal Temple, in the western side of the Fort

Puthen Malika / Kuthira Malika



The building was the palace of Swathi Thirunal. There is a direct entry into Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple from here. Now palace museum is functioning in a portion. It is a two-storey tiled roof building with decorative wooden ceiling. The outer veranda is supported by stone pillars. The wooden pillars are of Ionic and Corinthian style. The peculiarity of the building structure imparts the name Kuthira Malika.

Year of Construction: 1829-1847
Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust
Use
Original: Residence of the Royal Family
Present: Museum

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Eastern side of Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Puthukulam & Kazhakkootam Kulangara Temple



The deity of the temple is Sree Krishna. Maharaja Marthanda Varma dug the pond after demolishing the Tharavadu (family house) of Kazhakuttam Pillai, who stood hostile. The temple is in circular shape.

Year of Construction :

More than 250 years back

Present Ownership:

Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Pond

Present: Pond

Panchayat: Kazhakkootam

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Kazhakkootam Junction in
NH 47

PWD Executive Engineer's Office, PMG



Formerly this was the office of the Travancore Engineering Department. This is a double storied tiled roof building. Closely placed wooden beams support the wooden roof of ground floor. Circular masonry columns support the veranda roof. Wooden staircase and louvered doors and windows are used. Grills are provided in the windows.

Year of Construction: Around 90 years old
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Office of the Travancore Engineering Department
Present: PWD Executive Engineer's Office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

At PMG Junction near the Science and Technology Museum

Railway Station



The construction of Kollam- Thiruvananthapuram Railway line started in 1913 and completed in four years. The inauguration was on January 1, 1918. The line was extended to the present Central Station at Thampanoor from Chakka in 1931. Before commencing Thiruvananthapuram - Kanyakumari line, Southern Railway ended at Thiruvananthapuram. This is a double storey building constructed in typical western style architecture using dressed granite blocks.

Year of Construction: 1931
Present Ownership: Indian Railways
Use
Original: Railway Terminal
Present: Railway Station

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

The Central Railway Station itself is a major landmark in the city

Ramanamadam



The main building was formerly used for performing rituals. Tharananellur, the Chief Thantri resided here. There is a Gosala (cow shed) attached to the main building. Gosala became the Ramanamadam marriage hall. It is a two storey tiled roof building in indigenous style. All five entries to this building from main road will lead to the temple tank at the back. There is a version that Ramanamadam is named after Ramanamadatil Pillai - one among the Ettu Veettil Pillais. The houses of the Ettuveettil Pillais were demolished by Marthanda Varma Maharaja (1729-1758). It is believed that Ramanamadam and a few other buildings were built using the materials of the demolished buildings.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original: Used for ritual purposes

Present: Portion of this building is used as marriage hall

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Northern side of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Ramarao Lamp



The street light was erected in memory of Ramarayar, the Divan of Travancore (1887-1892). It may be one of the oldest surviving street lights in the State.

Year of Construction: Around 100 years old

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Lamp post

Present: Lamp post

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

Situated right in front of the LMS Church at the LMS Junction

Rengavilasam Palace (Main building)



Construction of the palace was started during the reign of Swathi Thirunal (1829-1847) and completed during the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal Rama Varma (1860-1880). Once the building was the centre for performing arts. The Natya Sala having 50 m length is the special feature of the Palace. This two-storey structure bears colonial influence in its architecture. Workers from Tamil Nadu built this palace combining Western and Kerala styles. Floors with polished tiles, big glass windows and doors, iron grills and rooms with high roofs make the palace magnificent.

Year of Construction: 1860-1880
Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore
Use
Original: Royal Palace
Present: Office of the KSRTC

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Within the Fort area and close to Anantha Vilasam Palace

Rengavilasam Palace Outhouse



This was the outhouse for the security guards of Rengavilasom Palace. This is a doublestorey, tiled roof building with wooden ceiling and wooden staircase, having many rooms. Laterite stone and mortar were used for the construction.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: KSRTC (On lease)
Use

Original: Outhouse

Present: Part of KSRTC office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort wall and close to Anantha Vilasam Palace

Reptile House, Museum



The building, showcasing various kinds of reptiles, is situated in the museum campus. Semi circular arches, exposed random rubble masonry and the dressed granite corners give this structure an elegant look. Interior walls are plastered and lime washed. Fish scaled tiled roof and clay tiled flooring are seen.

Year of Construction : 100 years back

Present Ownership:

Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Reptile House

Present: Reptile House

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Palayam inside Museum Complex

Residency



British Resident Col. Monroe resided here. The building and the premises were handed over to the Travancore Government in 1947. There is a beautiful Mandapa at the front by the porch. The Flag-pole in front of the building, visible from afar, was used for signalling the presence of the Resident at the Bungalow. The compound of the Bungalow was large, surrounded by roads on all sides. The land was shared to Indian Railway, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Child welfare Centre, Lower Primary School etc. This big bungalow has louvered and glazed windows, fish-scale tiled roof and wooden first floor. The outhouse, which contained the kitchen, has been demolished to construct the State Government Guest House.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Leased to KITTS, an institution for Tourism studies, for 99 years
Use

Original : British Resident's Bungalow

Present : KITTS, a Government of Kerala undertaking for tourism studies

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
Located at Thycaud

Ross House



This was the official residence of Mr. John Ross, then Principal of Maharajas College for Women. The building was named after him. The building, which is now known as Ross House is the official residence of a State Minister. The double storey building depicts the western style of Architecture. Semi circular arch openings are provided in the Verandas. The tiled roof increases the beauty of the structure. It retains the elegance even after renovation.

Year of Construction: 1902
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Residence
Present: Official Residence of a State Minister

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Vazhuthacaud, opposite to
H.H. Maharajas College for
Women

Sakratheertha Kulam



Formerly it was used as a tank for rituals. New idols for the temples were immersed in it for sanctification. It is a circular tank with two entrances, one from west and the other from south. The tank has protection walls on all sides.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years old

Present Ownership: Public Works Department

Use

Original: Tank for ritual ceremonies

Present: Tank

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

On Sanghumugham beach near Trivandrum Air Port

Sakratheertha Mandapam



This mandapam is still used for ritual performance during Arattu festival of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple. This mandapam shows the influence of Tamil architecture. There are four rows of pillars, six in each row, altogether 24 in number. Each pillar is seven feet high. The pillars and roof of the mandapam are made of stone and the top of the mandapam is cement plastered.

Year of Construction: : More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Public Works Department

Use

Original: Mandapam

Present: Mandapam

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

Sanghumugham Beach Road
near Air Port

Sanghumugham Kottaram



This Palace was the rest house of the Rajas of Travancore during Arattu festival of Sree Padmanabha Swamy. This double storey tiled roof building is constructed predominantly in Kerala style architecture. But the sash windows show the colonial influence. Laterite and mortar were used for construction.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore

Use

Original: Rest house of Raja of Travancore

Present: vacant

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

Near Sanghumugham beach

Shanghumugham Mandapam



Rituals associated with the Arattu festival of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple are performed here. This mandapam is a testimony for the influence of Tamil architecture. There are four rows of pillars, six in each row, altogether 24 in number. Each pillar is 1.25 feet square and about 10 feet high. Shapes of *sankhu* (conch) are carved on it. The pillars and roof of the mandapam are made of rock and the top is cement plastered.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Public Works Department

Use

Original: Mandapam

Present: Mandapam

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

Shanghumugham Beach Road
near Air Port

Shangumugham Devi Temple



This old temple, situated near to Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is believed to be consecrated by Parasurama. The temple and nearby Sangumugham Beach attract people from all parts of the country. Thousands of people gather at Sangumugham Beach to offer Balitharpana (tribute to ancestors). This temple is circular in shape and has tiled roofing and an *Anakkottil*.

Year of Construction: more than 200 years back
Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board
Use
Original : Temple
Present : Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Temple
Location:
Near airport, Shangumugham

Saraswathi Vilasam Kottaram



The Palace was built for the poet laureate Kerala Varma Valiyakoi Thampuran (Kerala Kalidasan; 1845-1914). The spacious room behind this building witnessed his literary creations. This double storey building underlines the beauty of Kerala and Colonial styles of architecture. High walls, roof, circular pillars, wooden ceiling, veranda and luxurious interiors proclaim the princely grandeur. Arch windows with iron grills and glass ventilators stand testimony to the colonial influence. The veranda at the rear of the first floor and the car porch are constructed in 1930's using concrete technology.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Dakshin Bharath Hindi Prachar Sabha

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near the western entry of the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Sharkara Devi Temple



This is one of the oldest 'Kali Temples' in South Kerala. The major festivals of this temple are Kaliyoottu and Meenabharani. The idol of the temple is covered with Kaattu-Sharkara Yogam. The Sreekovil is a square shaped double storey structure with brass-coated roof. The decorative carvings of Sree Rama, Sree Krishna and Narasimhamoorthi are the added features of the Sreekovil. The ancillary structures include, Nalambalam, Balikkalpura, Golden Flag Post (Swarna Kodimaram), Anakkottil and Kalithattu.

Year of Construction :

About 400 years back

Present Ownership:

Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Chirayinkil

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Building

Location:

At Sharkara near Chirayinkil

Science And Technology Museum



The science complex includes the second largest planetarium in India. The global theatre, having seating capacity of 250, exhibits documentary films in different languages. Semi circular arches were used above the louvered doors and windows. Closely spaced wooden beams support wooden roof of ground floor. Stairs are wooden. Square masonry pillars support the veranda on all sides, except in the front.

Year of Construction: More than 90 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Residence of Chief Engineer. Later it was part of old Engineering College

Present: Museum

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At PMG Junction

Government Secretariat



Hozur Kacheri was functioning initially in the palaces within the Fort. Later the Secretariat became the administrative headquarters. The foundation stone for the Secretariat building was laid by Ayilyam Thirunal in 1865. The Chief Engineer, Barton and the Divan, Sir T Madhava Rao monitored the construction, which was completed in 1869. The crowning ceremony of Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal was held at the Durbar hall of this building. Built in colonial style of Architecture, this building has many circular columns with pedestals and capitols. Windows are of Gothic style. Beautiful cast iron railings are an added attraction of this building. The nearby place from where bricks were made for the building thus owned the name Chenkal Choola. Additions were made to the building in 1936, 1961, 1971, 1974 and 1982.

Year of Construction: 1869

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Secretariat

Present: Secretariat

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

This building is a major landmark right at the heart of the city

Siva temple - Mithranandapuram



This oldest temple is a '*Trimoorthi*' temple i.e., Brahma- Vishnu - Siva Temple. It is believed that the origin of this temple dates back to 12th century. A saint by name 'Mithran' is believed to have lived here and hence the name "Mithranandapuram". The *Sreekovil* (sanctum sanctorum) is erected in rock and roofed with copper sheets. There is a mandapam in front of the Sreekovil with a carved stone of 'Nandi', the sacred ox of Lord Siva. Renovations were done by the Travancore Devaswom Board in 1982.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Travancore Dewaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Mithranandapuram in the the south-west corner of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Sivagiri Samadhi



Sivagiri is the Samadhi place of Sree Narayana Guru, the great social reformer of Kerala. Sree Narayana Guru came to Varkala in 1904 and constructed the Sarada Mutt in 1911. Dignitaries like Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindra Nath Tagore visited Sree Narayana Guru at Sivagiri. It was here that Sree Narayana Guru attained Samadhi in 1928. This place includes Maha Samadhi, Parnasala, Vaidika Madom and Sarada Madom. The main Samadhi building is in circular shape with concrete roof. The Vaidika Madom is tiled roof and the parnasala is thatched roof structures. The Sarada Mutt is an octagonal structure.

Year of Construction: About 100 years back
Present Ownership : Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust
Use
Original: Mutt of Sree Narayana Guru
Present: Samadhi of Sree Narayana Guru

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Located at Sivagiri in Varkala

SMSM Institute



The building was constructed in connection with ‘Shashtyabdapoorthy’ celebrations (1064 ME) of Maharajah Sree Moolam Thirunal. It was the design centre of handicrafts under the leadership of K.R. Ravi Varma, the nephew of Raja Ravi Varma. The building is in British style with pointed arches. The walls of the building are plastered and painted to look like bricks.

Year of Construction: 1889
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: SMSM Institute
Present: SMSM Institute

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
Near Central Stadium,
Thiruvananthapuram

Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple



Thiruvananthapuram derives its name from this temple. Evidences suggest that the temple existed prior to third century BC. The temple is closely associated with the political history of Travancore. After the Thruppadi Danam held in 1750 AD, Marthandavarma dedicated his entire kingdom to Sree Padmanabha and ruled the State on behalf of the deity. Earlier the idol was made of 'iluppa' but it was scarred by fire in 1686 AD. The present idol is made of 'katu-sarkara yoga'. The inner spaces of the idol are filled with 12,000 sacred salagramas brought from Gandagi River in Nepal in 1733 AD. In the reclining pose, length of the idol is 18 feet. The temple has exquisite mural paintings. The East gopura (tower) is in Tamil architectural style and the other gopuras follow Kerala style. The majestic Seevelippura with 20 feet high 365 single block pillars, crowned with Vyali-mukha and Deepa-lakshmi, is an added attraction.

Year of Construction: 1733

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

The temple itself is a major land mark of the city

Sree Padmam Building



This was the residence of one among the Vadassery Amma Veedu family. The main building is still used as residence and portion of this building is used as a marriage hall (Sree Padmam Kalyana Mandapam). The two storey tiled house has the influence of colonial style. Masonry pillars, glass ventilators and iron grills in windows are examples for this. It has wooden staircase and ceiling. Wood works in the building are exemplary.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Private individual
Use

Original: Residence

Present: Residence and a portion is used as marriage hall

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
On Arattu Road at
Perumthanni

Sree Ramakrishna Ashram, Nettayam



The beautiful building, owned by Sree Ramakrishna Mission, is situated in a vast area at a hilltop. The construction of this Ashram began in 1916 and completed in 1924. Walls of the main building are made of dressed granite stones. The long veranda in the front portion supported by pillars is the main feature of the building.

Year of Construction: 1916-1924

Present Ownership: Ramakrishna Mission
Use

Original: Ashram

Present: Ashram

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Nettayam, near Malamukal

Sree Sankara Narayana Temple Navaikulam



The Deity of the temple is a combination of Lord Shiva and Lord Mahavishnu, known as 'Sankara Narayana'. The temple was constructed in 1439 by Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma. Procession of the Idol on elephant inside the Nalambalam during festival season is the main feature of the temple. The temple, constructed in typical Kerala style architecture, consists of Sreekoovil in circular shape with Chuttambalam and Nalambalam. The Oottupura, situated in the north west corner is also built in typical Kerala style.

Year of Construction: 1439
Present Ownership: Travancore
Devaswom Board
Use
Original: Temple
Present: Temple

Panchayat: Navayikulam

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Building

Location:

Situated in Navaikulam , at a
Distance of 2 km from
Kallambalam Junction in NH 47

Sreekrishna Swami Temple, Malayinkil



It is believed that this very old temple was consecrated by Villvamangalam Swamiyar. Ladies were not permitted to enter the temple earlier. Now the restriction is limited to 'Nalambalam'. This temple witnessed the creation of 'Bhasha Bhagavatom' by Madhava Panicker, one of the Niranam Poets. The building in typical Kerala style consists of Chuttambalam and Nalambalam. The Padippura, Anakkottil and the Pond are notable features.

Year of Construction: Around 400 years back

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Malayinkil

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

At Malayinkil Junction

Sreepadam Kottaram



The palace was said to be constructed during the reign of Regent Gouri Parvathi Bhai. Rajas and their families resided in this palace when they came to attend functions at the Padmanabha Swami Temple. Later it was used as the residence of Attingal Rani and her family. The *Abhisheka Theert ham* from the Padmanabha Swami Temple flows into the pond inside the premises. The structure consists of two Nalukettu, doublestoried buildings and a main building. The main building was constructed in the beginning of 19th century in predominant European style. Stone pillars in Italian style add to the beauty of the palace. This is one of the palaces in the district, which is not altered much.

Year of Construction:1816

Present Ownership: Postal Department,
Government of India

Use

Original: Palace

Present: Occupied by the Postal
Department, Government of India

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Inside the Fort, on the northern
gate of Sree Padmanabha
Swami Temple

Sreevaraham Pond



This vast temple tank looks like a fresh water lake. It is the second largest theertham (holy waters) in the district. The stone mandapam at the centre of the pond is a noticeable feature.

Year of Construction: More than 250 years back

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple Pond

Present: Temple Pond

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

Pond of Sreevaraham Temple

Sreevaraham Kotta (Simha Kotta)



The work of Fort around the Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple started in 1747 by Marthanda Varma Maharaja and was completed in 1787 during the reign of Dharma Raja. Though very beautiful, this Fort was not the main entrance. There are two *simhas* (lions) at the top of the pillars on either side of the gate.

Year of Construction:1787

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Fort Gate

Present: Fort Gate

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

At Sreevaraham

St George Othodox Syrian Church



The Malankara Orthodox Church was consecrated in 1900 AD. Kottaram Vaidyan (official physician of the palace) Thevalakkara Kannu and Lukose Judge were instrumental for the setting up of the church. Sree Moolam Thirunal, the Maharaja of Travancore gave 0.24 ha. of land for constructing the church. The gothic arches, pinnacles and its all white front façade are exemplary.

Year of Construction: 1891

Present Ownership: Malankara Orthodox Sabha

Use

Original: Church

Present: Church

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Spencer Junction opposite to the University College

St Joseph Cathedral, Palayam



This 90 feet high towering structure, constructed in 1873, is one of the oldest churches in the city. In 1937 this became a Cathedral. In 1886, Pope John Paul II visited this church. The cathedral is constructed in Gothic Revival style, which is somewhat reminiscent of the Notre Dame in Paris. Built on grand scale, its red brick facade and silver highlights add to general impression of the grandeur. There are three wooden stairways, which lead to the belfry. The statue of Jesus Christ and the tower are at a height of 90 feet above ground level.

Year of Construction: 1873

Present Ownership: Diocese of Thiruvananthapuram

Use

Original: Church

Present: Church

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Palayam, opposite to Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium

St. Joseph Church, Vazhuthacaud



This is one of the renowned churches in Sero Malabar Province. A seminary is also functioning in the premises. Semicircular arches are provided over the doors and windows. Exposed random rubble masonry, plastered pillars and beautifully decorated cornice works show the western style of church architecture.

Year of Construction: 1903

Present Ownership: Nishpaduka Karmalitha Sabha

Use

Original: Church

Present: Church

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vazhuthacaud, opposite to the Cotton Hill School

St. Joseph's School



Formerly this school was functioned in the compound of the Accountant General's Office and later shifted to a building near Palayam St. Joseph's Cathedral. Diwan Sir T. Madhava Rao inaugurated the present school on January 18, 1905. Initially Irish priests were the headmasters of the school. The three-storied building shows the influence of western architecture. Semi circular arches are used in the ground floor and segmental arches in other floors. Ground floor and first floor are wooden and supported by wooden beams. Wooden stairs and louvered windows add to the elegance of the building.

Year of Construction: 1905
Present Ownership: Jesuit Fathers
Original: School
Present: School

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At General Hospital Junction

State Archives Office



State Archives Office has been functioning here since 1964. Before that the Central Records Office of Travancore functioned here. The building was once the State Jail. There is a Madan Kovil inside the compound. The two storey tiled roof building situates in a beautiful premise, having a number of age-old trees.

Year of Construction: 1887

Ownership : State Archives, Government of Kerala

Use :

Original : Jail

Present : State Archives, Government of Kerala

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

This building is located at the north west corner of the Fort, close to Punnapuram Junction and behind the Fort Hospital

Sundara Vilasom Kottaram



The palace was constructed during the reign of Sree Moolam Thirunal. This was the residence of the female members of the Royal Family. As the name suggests, it is beautiful in architecture and appearance. *Mayura Sandesham* of Kerala Varma Valiakoi Thampuram contains the poetic description of beauty and majesty of this palace. The compound is spread over in an area of 0.2105 ha. The doublestoried building was constructed blending the Western and Kerala architectural styles. Laterite stone and lime mortar were used in the construction. Interior decorations in wood are exemplary. Palatial halls and rooms, decorative ceilings, large windows and doors, arches, verandas, large front yard and the prominent location are the main features of this magnificent building.

Year of Construction: 1886

Present Ownership: Royal Family of Travancore

Use

Original: Palace

Present: Ground floor is vacant but the first floor is rented out

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

North west side of Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple

Swathi Thirunal Music College



The building was originally the residence of the Assistant British Resident. The Music College started functioning here in 1939. This single storey tiled building has wooden ceiling. Wooden doors are partially louvered. Round masonry pillars support the roof above verandas around. Walls are plastered and parapets wooden.

Year of Construction: More than 125 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Residence of Assistant British Resident

Present: Music College

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
At Thycaud, close to the Government Guest House and the Government Arts College

Taluk Hospital, Neyyattinkara



The structure was constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. Now the Taluk Hospital functions here. The building is constructed using rubble. The roof is of wooden truss and tile.

Year of Construction : 1902

Present Ownership : Government of Kerala

Use

Present: Hospital

Municipality: Neyyattinkara

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Building

Location:

Located at Neyyattinkara
Hospital Junction

Taluk Office at Neyyattinkara



The building was constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. Now the Taluk Office functions here. The tiled roof building is constructed in Kerala style of Architecture.

Year of Construction : 1908
Present Ownership : Government of Kerala
Use :
Present: Taluk Office

Municipality: Neyyattinkara
Taluk: Neyyattinkara
Category:
Building
Location:
Located at Neyyattinkara
Hospital Junction

Thanjavoor Amma Veedu



This building, also known as Vadassery Padinjare Ammaveedu, was built by Swathi Thirunal for his consort Sundara Lakshmi. After her death the property was taken over by the rulers. Later Sree Moolam Thirunal Maharaja handed over this property to his son. The road facing Ambari building was constructed in 1895. The structure facing the road is a double storey, tiled roof building constructed with laterite and mortar. The main building is single storey - pathinarukettu - constructed in accordance with the Kerala style architecture. The wall, ceiling and pillars are wooden.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Mithraniketan
Use

Original: Residence

Present: Office of Mithraniketan

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
At Arattu Road

Thattittambalam Vazhiyambalam



These structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were used as waiting and resting places for people travelling from various parts mainly for trade and commerce. Since there was no vehicular transport available in that era, people walked from their places to destinations miles and miles. During their prolonged journeys, they spend their nights in these Vazhiyambalams and keep their luggage and goods on Chumaduthangi's constructed on the side of almost all Vazhiyambalams.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Mithraniketan
Use

Original: Residence

Present: Office of Mithraniketan

Panchayat: Kunnathukal

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Structure

Location:

By the side of Parassala -
Vellarada Road, near Nilamamoodu
Junction

Thevarathu Koyikkal – Main Building and Annexure



The main building was the residence of the female members of the Royal Family. Royal marriages known as 'Pallikettu' were conducted at a portion of this building. Now this portion is known as Lalit Mahal, an auditorium for conducting marriages. The annexure building was originally the residence of the senior most Rani of the Royal Family. The main building is like a Nalukettu. But, instead of courtyard at the centre there is a mandapam, which is used for marriage functions. The Annexure building has an entrance hall facing the road. This hall is supported by big pillars of three feet diameter and 15 feet height. This hall is used as Kalyana Mandapam. Major part of the building has been altered.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Private

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Portions used as marriage halls

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Within the Fort on the north west corner of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple. Close to Sundara Vilasam Palace

Thiru Viraloorkavu Temple



The trees and other bushes around the temple (serpent grove) create a forest like atmosphere. Vanadurga is the deity. The pond in front of the temple is the main water source of the public in the area. The temple is built in typical Kerala style architecture with Nalambalam.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Temple Trust
Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Nagaroor

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:
Building

Location:
Near Nagaroor in Attingal-Kilimanoor Route

Thirunarayanapuram Temple



This temple, also called Sree Narayanapuram, is believed to be about 700 years old. This is a Sikhara type having a combination of early Vijayanagara style of architecture with local forms and features. The square Thrithala type of superstructure cloister namaskara mandapa, granite foundation and walls are the main features of the temple. The carvings, especially of the namaskaramandapa, show the characteristics of early Vijayanagara style.

Year of Construction: 14th
Century

Present Ownership: Temple Trust
Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Ottur

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Building

Location:

At a distance of 1.5 km from
Vadaserikonam Junction on
Kallambalam-Varkala Road

Thiruvattar Amma Veedu



This was the residence of the family of Thiruvattar Amma, one of the consorts of Travancore Rajas. This was the Ammaveedu of Dharmaraja (1758-1798) and Swathi Thirunal (1829-1847). This double storey tiled roof building has many halls. Wooden staircase and wooden ceiling are of typical Kerala Style. The building was constructed using laterite stone and mortar.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Amma Veedu
Use

Original: Residence

Present: Now rented out

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near West Fort, by the side of Arattu Road

Thoonilla Kottaram



Thoonilla Kottaram means palace without pillars. The building was used for 'Neettukodukkal' (to confer honours to Europeans and others). Later it became a museum of Royal Family. Now Sports Council maintains this hall as indoor stadium and Indian Coffee House uses a portion as canteen. The building is constructed in accordance with colonial style of architecture. The tin sheet roofing has been replaced by asbestos. Laterite stone and mortar were used for construction.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back
Present Ownership: Sports Council
Use
Original: Ceremonial Hall
Present: Indoor Stadium

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Sanghumugham Beach road
near Air Port

Thrichakrapuram Sre Krishna Temple, Thirumala



This beautiful temple is situated on a rock at Vettamukku near Thirumala. It is believed that the *prathishta* (consecration) of the original idol of the temple was done by Arjuna during the *ajna havasa* (hiding period) of the Pandavas. There is a small pond in the rock which carries water all round the year. The rock for the construction of *ottakkal mandapam* in Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple was taken from here. Dressed granite stone is used for the construction.

Year of Construction: More than 300 years back

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vettamukku near Thirumala

Thrikkovil Siva Temple, Kilimanoor



The temple is built in traditional Kerala style with gabled roof and Mangalore tiles. There is a Nalambalam with Chuttuvilakku around the temple. The big 'balikkallu' and its ancillary structures are the speciality of the temple.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years old

Present Ownership: Sri Sankara Trust Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Nagaroor

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Thekkinkadu, at Nagaroor in Attingal-Kilimanoor Route.

Thrippadapuram Temple



The reference in the 13th century 'Unnuneeli Sandesam' reveals the existence of this temple even before that. The belief is that the feet (Thrippadangal) of Sree Padmanabha Swami are this temple and the body and the head of Swami rest in Anandankadu (Anandapuri) and Thiruvallam respectively. The presence of six Siva Linga idols is a special feature of the temple. There are three temple tanks in the premises viz. Dharmakulam, Adharmakulam and Kannutheertham. The palace situated nearby was demolished recently. The basement and walls are built with granite in lime mortar. The roof is built up with copper lining over wooden framework.

Year of Construction : More than 200 years back

Ownership: Travancore Devaswam Board

Use:

Original: Siva Temple

Present: Siva Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

South of NH-47 and situated about 1.5 Km away from Karyavattom junction

Thrivikramangalam Temple



The temple by the side of Karamana River, devoted to Lord Mahavishnu, belongs to the period between 11th and 12th century. The temple is famous for its sculptural extravagance. Certain sculptures in front of the temple depict Chola features. A tall 'Kodimaram' (flag mast) is seen in front of the temple. The temple is built in combination of Chola and Kerala styles of architecture. The basement is constructed with dressed granite block (Ashlars Masonary) and the walls with Laterite blocks. The tiled roofing is done over wooden frames and rafters.

Year of Construction: Between 11th and 12th century

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Thrivikramangalam Junction near Thamalam

TRIDA Building



The building is one among the ‘magnificent three’ on Vellayambalam- Vazhuthacaud Road. The palace manager Sankaran Thampi constructed the building for the daughter of Maharaja Sree Moolam Thirunal. The building is in typical British Colonial style. Gabled roof, covered with the Mangalore type tiles, sunshades and ornamental eave boards add to the beauty of the building.

Year of Construction: 1914

Present Ownership: Thiruvananthapuram Development Authority

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Office of the Thiruvananthapuram Development Authority

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

By the side of Vellayambalam-Vazhutacaud Road, near Police Headquarters

University Boys' Hostel



The elegant building located at a very prominent place in the city is quite old. The spacious hall in the ground floor, which appears to be used as a chapel in the olden days, is a reading room now. The hostel wardens were the English in the beginning. The building in granite and wood is very beautiful. Stone arches and a moderate colour scheme adds to the elegance of the building. In 1948 a new block was constructed at the back of the hostel.

Year of Construction: Around 100 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Hostel Building

Present: Hostel Building

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

By the side of MG Road, close to LMS Junction

University College



University College was opened as HH Maharaja Free School by Maharaja Swathy Thirunal in 1834. It was upgraded in 1866 to Arts College. On September 30, 1869 Maharaja Ayilyam Thirunal laid the foundation stone for the college. He inaugurated the main building in March 1873. Originally the college was known as H.H. Maharajah's College. Later it became Science College. In 1937 with the formation of Travancore University the college became the University College. The main building is a double storey structure with tiled roofing. Wooden flooring supported by iron sections can be seen in the first floor. Segmental and pointed arches are provided. Cast iron columns and railings are used in the first floor veranda. Provision for rainwater collection is also made.

Year of Construction: 1869- 1873

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original College

Present: College

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

By the side of MG road

Utsavamatom



The Building was formerly used as the festival office and to keep festival (Utsava) articles. Later, part of this building was used as judicial office hearing petty cases. Today the building is rented out. Situated in 0.0912 ha. of land, the building is an elongated one having a length of approx. 100 m. The two-storey tiled roof building constructed in colonial style has 10 feet height with cylindrical pillars at the front. Laterite stone and mortar were used.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust

Use

Original To keep festival (Utsava) articles and office for the purpose of conducting festival functions.

Present: Many small offices are functioning in the building

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
In Ramanamadam Road near Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Vadakkae Kottaram



Uthram Thirunal, Ayilyam Thirunal and Vishakam Thirunal Rajas lived here before their coronation as Maharajas. During the period of Uthram Thirunal, the office of Sir T Madahava Rao functioned in the building. First floor slab of this double storey building is made of wooden joists and planks. Wood is luxuriously used in the construction. Semi circular arches are provided above the windows.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Kerala Agro Industries Corporation

Use:

Original: Royal Family

Present: Kerala Agro Industries Corporation

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Inside the Fort and opposite to the Sanana Mission Girls High School

Vadakke Nambi Madom



The chief priest of the Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple is known as Nambi and hence this building - his residence - is called Nambi Madom. This building is located close to west gate of the temple. There is direct access from the premises of the building to the temple. The building, a Nalukettu, is located in 0.0609 ha. of land, and is styled in Kerala Architecture with a central courtyard. This two-storey building has a pond called Mithrananda Kulam in its premises used by the priest.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years back

Present Ownership: Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple Trust

Use

Original: Residence of Chief priest of Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple

Present: Residence of Chief priest of Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
Fort Area, Near
Mithrananthapuram at West
Gate

Vadassery Ammaveedu



This was the Amma veedu of Dharma Raja (1758-98), Balaramavarma (1798-1810), Swathi Thirunal (1829-1847) and Sree Moolam Thirunal (1886-1924). At the time of freedom struggle Jawahar Lal Nehru chanced to stay here, as he was not permitted to enter inside the Fort. The Ammaveedu is a complex structure consisting of a temple and a number of buildings. The main building is a double storey tiled roof one following Kerala architecture.

Year of Construction: More than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Nair Service Society
Use

Original: Ammaveedu

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Perunthanni, outside the Fort and by the Arattu Road

Vaduvotha Sree Mahavishnu Temple, Muttathara



It is believed that the temple is about 2000 years old. The idol in the temple is Mahavishnu in the form of 'Sanghu Chakra Gadha Padma Dhari'. There are many stories connecting the temple with Vilwamangalam Swamiar and Travancore Royal Family. The Sreekovil is circular with *Trithala* type of superstructure. The carvings in the superstructure are a combination of early Vijayanagara style of architecture with local forms and features.

Year of Construction: More than 2000 years back

Present Ownership: Private Trust
Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
At Muttathara

Valiyasala Amma Veedu



Once the residence of one of the consorts of the Maharaja, the building is now vacant and said to be under threat of demolition. Designed in a style highly influenced by the West, this building has architectural features like fluted pillars with pedestal and capital. It also has marvelous wooden carvings. This two storied building located by the side of the NH 47 is presently kept vacant and is in a dilapidated condition.

Year of Construction: More than 2000 years back

Present Ownership: Private Trust
Use

Original: Residence

Present: Vacant

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:
At Valiyasala, Thampanoor

Valiyathura Pier and Auxillary structures



Valiyathura Harbour was famous from the olden days itself and many ships came here for trade, as it was the main commercial port of Travancore. The original Pier, known as Sangumughom Bridge was constructed in 1825. In 1859, a ship named Jupiter of Queen Victoria came to this port on its way to Ceylon to collect water. In 1946, a ship named S.S. Pandit collided with the pier and caused damage to it. The pier was renovated and opened on October 1, 1956. The Pier is a concrete structure having a gangway of length 703 feet and width 24 feet.

Year of Construction: 1825

Renovated in 1956

Present Ownership: Governemnt of Kerala

Use

Original: Pier

Present: Pier

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Structure

Location:

At Valiyathura

Vallakadavu Boat Jetty



The Royal Family used the jetty by the side of Parvathi Puthanar for boat journeys. This waterway, made during the reign of Gowri Parvathi Bhai in 1825 also called T S Canal was once the commercial route in between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram. During the reign of Travancore Royal Family many dignitaries from distant places alighted at this jetty to reach Thiruvananthapuram for attending Murajapam, Bhadradeepam, Navarathri and other rituals. The boat shed accommodated five boats at a time. In front of the shed there is an arch gate, which bears the emblem of the Travancore Royal Family. The boat jetty was constructed using burnt bricks and mortar.

Year of Construction: more than 150 years back

Present Ownership: Sports Council, Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Boat Jetty

Present: Not in use

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Precinct

Location:

At Vallakkadavu, on the way to Airport

Vamanapuram Bridge



The iron bridge across the Vamanapuram River was reconstructed in 1935. The bridge provides a link between Vamanapuram and Karette in MC Road.

Year of Construction: Reconstructed in AD 1935

Use

Original: Bridge

Present: Bridge

Panchayat: Pulimath

Taluk: Nedumangad

Category:

Structure

Location:

Near Vamanapuram Junction

Vanchiyoor Court



This was once the most famous Sree Moola Vilasom School of Travancore. The historic uprising against the hike in school fee took place here in 1922 during Divan Raghavachari's period. The school was shifted to another site near Overbridge in 1943. Then onwards this building became the headquarters of Travancore High Court. With the formation of Travancore-Cochin State, the High court was shifted to Cochin, and at Vanchiyoor District Sessions Courts was commenced. The building is built in Gothic-Greek style and painted in a typical brick red colour. Today this premises is one of the few public places in the city having large open spaces and a number of shade trees.

Year of Construction: 1922
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: School building
Present: Sessions Court

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Vanchiyoor Junction

Varkala Janardana Swamy Temple



The idol of the temple is Sreekrishna and the temple is on the top of a hill near Varkala Cliff. The 67th stanza of 'Unnuneeli Sandesam', written during 1350-1365 AD, bears reference to the temple. According to the historians, the temple, also called Dakshina Varanasi, was constructed by Pandi Rajahs. An old bell, donated by the Dutch in 1757 is kept in the temple. The temple is famous for performing rituals to the ancestors. The Thila Homa, a special offering, is done here for ancestors. The famous Papanasini Theertham in Varkala Beach adds to the sanctity of this place. The temple consists of a Sreekovil, Chuttambalam and a Nalambalam built in polished granite. The gopuram in front of the temple, built in typical Kerala style, is very beautiful.

Year of Construction: 14th century
Present Ownership: Travancore
Devaswom Board
Use
Original: Temple
Present: Temple

Municipality: Varkala

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Building

Location:

At Varkala Janardanapuram,
about 1.5 km from Maithanam
Junction, Varkala

Varkala Palace Complex



The building complex, at Varkala Cliff, was the Summer Palace of the Royal Family. The single storey structures are with tiled roof. Gabled roof covered with Mangalore pattern tiles and wooden ceilings are the added features of this building.

Year of Construction: About 100 years back
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Palace
Present: Guest House

Municipality: Varkala

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:
Building

Location:
Near Varkala Cliff and helipad

Varkala Pond and Ancillary Structure



The Sacred pond is as old as Jananrdhana Swamy Temple, Varkala. The temple and Pond have been referred to in the 67th stanza of Unnineeli sandesam written in 14th Century. This temple and pond are famous for offering rituals to the ancestors. The oottupura in the Southern side of the pond is of typical Kerala style architecture with gabled roof.

Year of Construction: 14th century
Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board
Use
Original: Pond, Oottupura
Present: Pond, Oottupura

Municipality: Varkala
Taluk: Chirayinkil
Category:
Precinct
Location:
At Papanasam near Varkala

Varkala Thurappu



The construction of this tunnel was started in 1867 by Maharaja Aayilyam Thirunal, as part of the waterways of TS Canal. Mr Barton was the Chief Engineer. Before the construction of this canal, the waterways from Shoranur ended at Nadayara, the northern side of Sivagiri. For augmenting the route to Thiruvananthapuram, Sivagiri Canal was made. The Sivagiri Thurappu is a part of this canal. This canal starts at Chilakkur and ends at Nadayara, and has a total length of five kms. In this canal, there is a large tunnel of 924 feet length and another small tunnel, which were completed in 1880 during the Divanship of Seshaiyyah Sastri. The commodities from the Southern Travancore were transported from Vallakadavu to various parts of the country through Sivagiri route. Both the tunnels, having arch structure, were made in 1880 and had been concreted in 1942.

Year of Construction:1880

Present ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Tunnel in the water route of TS Canal

Present: Not in use

Municipality: Varkala

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:

Structure

Location:

At Sivagiri, Varkala

Vazhiyambalam at Poovanpara, Attingal



This vazhiyambalam is located, by the side of Vamanapuram river, at Poovanpara, near Attingal. These structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were used as waiting and resting places for people traveling from various parts mainly for trade and commerce. Since there was no vehicular transport available in that era. During their prolonged journeys, they spend their nights in these Vazhiyambalams and keep their luggage and goods on Chumaduthangi are constructed on the side of the almost all Vazhiyambalams. The structure is made of rubble pillars and rubble sheet roof.

Year of Construction: More than 300 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Vazhiyambalam

Present: Vazhiyambalam

Municipality: Attingal

Taluk: Chirayinkil

Category:
Structure

Location:
Poovanpara, near Attingal

Vazhiyambalam at Pothencode



This vazhiyambalam is located in a private property adjacent to Velavoor Bridge near Pothencode.

Year of Construction :

More than 300 years back

Present Ownership:

Private ownership

Use

Original: Vazhiyambalam

Present: Vazhiyambalam

Panchayat: Manikkal

Taluk: Nedumangad

Category:

Structure

Location:

One kilometre from Velavoor near Pothencode

Vazhuthacaud Ganapathy Temple



The temple is situated in the right side of Bakery-Vazhuthacaud Road. The idol facing western direction is the speciality of this temple. The temple, in typical Kerala style architecture, is constructed in an elevated land. The pathway is paved with dressed granite steps.

Year of Construction : About 300 hundred years back

Present Ownership: Temple Trust
Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

On the right side of Bakery-Vazhuthacaud Road

Veda Padana Kendram



This is the only building in the city constructed as a 'Panthrantu Kettu' having three court yards by the Royal Family. The single storey building has many rooms in all sides of the courtyards. There is a Thulasithara at the main courtyard having Ganesha Idol and a Siva Linga on the south of this courtyard. Rib tiles are used.

Year of Construction: More than 100 years back

Present Ownership: Private

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Centre for Vedic Studies

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Inside the Fort - close to
Sanana Mission Fort Girls High
School

Veerakeralapuram Temple



The temple, also known as Veeralam Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, was owned by the Maharajah of Travancore. It is situated in Chirayinkil Road, near Katchery Junction. On partition of the land, the temple and its environs were given to a family, which was later handed over to Sree Padam Trust. The structure consists of a main temple and a chuttambalam. The thatched roof has been altered to a concrete structure.

Year of Construction: About 200 years old
Present Ownership: Sree Padom Temple Trust
Use :
Original: Temple
Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
Near Kachery Junction,
Attingal Town

Vellayambalam Palace



This was the official Guest House of the erstwhile State of Travancore. This beautiful two-storey tiled building has louvered windows and semicircular arches that span the doors. The copper gutters for collecting rain water have been replaced. Though a number of new buildings have come up in the premises, the elegance of the palace is not lost. The site is famous for the existence of the well used by the Royal Family.

Year of Construction: 1910
Present Ownership: KELTRON
Use
Original: Guest House
Present: Office of KELTRON

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Vellayambalam Junction

Vettakkorumakan Temple



Vettakkorumakan is believed to be the son of Shiva and Parvathi. The temple is said to be more than 300 years old. Pallivetta of Sree Padmanabha Swamy is held in front of this temple. Now a number of offices are functioning in various portions of the temple building. This old building has a high-pitched roof. It is also believed that there was an underground tunnel from within the temple towards outside.

Year of Construction: More than 300 years back

Owner ship : Travancore Devaswom Board.
Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Located inside the Fort adjacent to Fort High School

Vazhiyambalam at Vettamukku



Such structures were constructed during the reign of Maharajas of Travancore. These were used as waiting and resting places for people traveling from various parts mainly for trade and commerce. Since there was no vehicular transport available in that era, people walked miles and miles from their places to destinations. During their prolonged journeys, they spent their nights in these Vazhiyambalams and kept their luggage and goods on Chumaduthangi's constructed on the side of almost all Vazhiyambalams.

Year of Construction : More than 100 years old

Ownership : Government Land

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Structure

Location:
By the side of Thirumala-Vettamukku Road, 50 m from Vettamukku Junction

Vettimurichakotta



Literally the name suggests that the fort which has been cut down. It is believed that during the reign of Uthram Thirunal (1847-1860), his heir-apparent (Ilayaraja) Visakom Thirunal in an attempt to test the skill of the Palace Astrologer, asked the astrologer to predict the Gate through which he would travel that evening. The predication was recorded and the Raja was requested to read it only after his travel. The Raja then ordered his palace officers to cut down the fort walls and to create a new gate. But to the Raja's surprise, when he read the prediction after his travel, it found to be that he would travel through a newly constructed gate. Sree Moolam Thirunal in 1891 modified this Gate by painting it red and giving more decorations. The gate occupies seven cents of land. The wall height of the Fort is about 15 feet and granite is used for construction.

Year of Construction: Rennovated in 1891

Present Ownership: Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Fort Gate

Present: Fort Gate

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Strucutre

Location:

Close to East Fort and within half a km from Pazhavangadi Junction

Vettukad Church



Madre-De-Deus Church, Vettukad was constructed in 16th century as part of Portuguese Missionary works along the coastal belt of Kerala. The shrine, Mother of God (Madre de Deus) was founded by St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit Priest in 1544. The construction of the present church was completed in 1937. People from different walks of life, far and near, visit here for worship. Exposed random rubble masonry, plastered pillars and beautifully decorated cornice works show the Western style of church architecture.

Year of Construction: Constructed in 1544 and renovated in 1937

Present Ownership: Church Committee
Use

Original: Church

Present: Church

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vettukad Junction near Veli

Vijayavilasom Palace Poojappura



The palace was a resting place of Maharajah of Travancore during Navarathri celebrations at Navarathri mandapom. It is built in combination of western and Kerala type architectures.

Year of Construction: 150 years back
Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Palace
Present: Government office

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Building
Location:
At Poojappura

Vishnu Temple - Mithranandapuram



This is one of the oldest temples of Thiruvananthapuram city. The Sree kovil is circular and hence it is called 'Vatta Sree Kovil'. On the walls of the Sreekovil, there were mural paintings. But today the paintings are removed and 'Dasavatharam' stories are depicted. Formerly ladies were not permitted to enter the temple. The temple is erected in rock stones. The circular sreekovil is roofed with copper sheets. The stone mandapam in front of the sreekovil is roofed with rib tiles. The ancient shrines were dated back to 12th century.

Year of Construction: More than 200 years old

Present Ownership: Travancore Devaswom Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category

Building

Location

At Mithranandapuram inside the Fort

Vizhinjam Bhagavathy Temple



This is one of the oldest temples in Thiruvananthapuram district and is situated very close to Arabian Sea. It is a protected monument of the State, built in typical Chola style of Architecture.

Year of Construction :

About 500 years back

Present Ownership:

Travancore Devaswam Board

Use

Original: Temple

Present: Temple

Panchayat: Vizhinjam

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category

Location

Vizhinjam Cave Temple



It is believed that the temple was built in the seventh century in Chera style. The idol of the temple is Pasupathadana Moorthy. The cave temple is made by cutting a rock having about 4.5 m height and 6.0 m diameter in size. On either side of the front face of the rock the figures of Siva and Sivaparvathi can be seen. The cave is made by cutting the rock to a depth of 70 cm and 80x150 cms width and height. At the centre of the cave the Goddess Saraswathi with veena is placed.

Year of Construction : 7th Century AD

Present Ownership : Archaeological
Survey of India

Use

Original : Temple

Present : Temple

Panchayat: Vizhinjam

Taluk: Neyyattinkara

Category:

Precinct

Location:

About 50 m west of Vizhinjam
Beach Road Junction

VJT Hall



The Victoria Jubilee Town Hall (VJT Hall) was built to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's Administration. The building was inaugurated on January 25, 1896 by Sree Moolam Thirunal Maharaja. This was the first Legislative Assembly Hall of Travancore. The building is built in British style with pointed arches. The seating capacity of the Hall is 700 including the balcony having 150 seats. The porch in front has four centred arches. The walls are plastered and painted like bricks.

Year of Construction: 1896

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Queen Victoria Jubilee Hall

Present: Exhibition and Seminar Hall

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:
Building

Location:

VJT Hall is a landmark in the city and is located opposite to the University College

W & C Hospital, Thycaud



Maharaja Swathi Tirunal established this Charitable Hospital in 1837 AD by upgrading a dispensary opened in 1817. The hospital attained maturity in 1905 with the introduction of Maternity ward. The hospital complex consists of a single and a double storey tiled roof buildings. Some new constructions and additions to the existing buildings have been done recently. Some of the auxiliary structures have already been demolished.

Year of Construction: 1837

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala
Use

Original: Hospital

Present: Hospital

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

Near Railway Overbridge at
Thycaud

War Memorial



Constructed in memory of the Travancore soldiers, who died in the first World War (1914-1921). Dressed granite structure is protected with side walls.

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Memorial

Present: Memorial

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Structure

Location:

At Palayam, opposite to Fine Arts College

West Fort



The Fort was constructed during the reign of Marthanda Varma (1729-1758) and Dharma Raja (1758-1798). The West Fort Gate is one of the four major gates of the Fort. This gate was renovated in 1814 during the reign of Rani Parvathy Bai. Aarattu processions of Maharajas towards Shanghumukhom pass through this gate.

Year of Construction:1729-1798
Present Ownership: Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala
Use
Original: Fort Gate
Present: Fort Gate

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram
Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram
Category:
Structure
Location:
At western side of the Fort

Women's College



The school for the Christian girls was opened to all communities in 1864 during the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal. In 1890 the Madras University recognised this institution. In 1895 during the reign of Sree Moolam Thirunal, it became Maharaja's School for Girls. In 1920 it was upgraded to a first grade college and renamed as College for Women. In 1923, science courses were also started and the college was shifted to Vazhuthacaud - the present campus. The building is constructed in combination of Colonial and Kerala styles. The big round pillars, segmental arches, glazed windows etc. are special features of the building.

Year of Construction: 1923

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: College

Present: College

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vazhuthacaud Junction

Xanadu



Like the other official residences of the present ministers of the State, this also was the residence of British officials. This building has a sprawling compound with landscape beauty. Influence of western architecture can be seen in the building. Use of granite, glass windows and pillars are the features of the building.

Year of Construction: Around 100 years back

Present Ownership: Government of Kerala

Use

Original: Residence

Present: Residence of a State Minister

Corporation: Thiruvananthapuram

Taluk: Thiruvananthapuram

Category:

Building

Location:

At Vazhuthacaud

Glossary of technical & vernacular terms

Ariyittu vazhcha	A sacred ceremony connected with the coronation of Kings in Travancore in olden times
Anakkottil	Big pandal or shed in front of temples for arraying elephants during festivals
Cheriyathaikavu	A prayer place for muslims
Chuttuvilakku	Rows of oil wicks surrounding the temple
Chuttambalam	The buildings surrounding the sanctum sanctorum
Chettiyaar	A community who engaged in the production of coconut oil
Dashavatharam	The ten incarnations of Vishnu, the Preserver in the Trinity
Ganesha	Lord Ganapathy, son of Lord Siva
Gajendra Moksha	Salvation given to an elephant by Lord Vishnu
Nalukettu	A quadrangular building with inner courtyard in traditional Kerala architecture
Navarathri	A nine day pooja festival of Hindus
Nalambalam	Same as chuttambalam
Papanashini	It is believed that a dip in the holy waters of papanashini will wash away the sins
Oottupura	Dining hall attached to temples
Vazhiyambalam	Wayside inn
Tulasithara	An altar like platform built in a courtyard to grow basil (a sign of sanctity)

Ashlar masonry:	Smooth square or rectangular stones laid with mortar in horizontal
Louvered:	Any of a series of narrow openings framed at their longer edges with slanting, overlapping fins or slats, adjustable for admitting light and air while shutting out rain
Belfry:	A bell tower, either attached to a church or other building or standing apart
Cornice:	Any prominent, continuous, horizontally projecting feature surmounting a wall or other construction, or dividing it horizontally for compositional purposes
Cloister:	a covered walk, especially in a religious institution, having an open arcade or colonnade usually opening onto a courtyard
Capitols:	Building or complex of buildings in which a state legislature meets
Gabled:	The generally triangular section of wall at the end of a pitched roof, occupying the space between the two slopes of the roof
Gangway:	A passageway, especially a narrow walkway.
Lime mortar:	It is a type of mortar. It was used in the construction of the vast majority of brick and stone buildings worldwide from ancient times until the widespread adoption of portland cement in the late nineteenth century
Laterite:	A reddish ferruginous soil formed in tropical regions by the decomposition of the underlying rocks
Mortar:	A receptacle of hard material, having a bowl-shaped cavity in which substances are reduced to powder with a pestle
Pinnacle:	A small turret or spire on a roof or buttress
Pier:	A structure built on posts extending from land out over water, used as a landing place for ships, an entertainment area, a strolling place, etc.; jetty.
Rafters:	One of the sloping beams that supports a pitched roof
Segmental arch:	An arch in which the curve is a less than semicircular segment of a circle
Sash:	A long band or scarf worn over one shoulder or around the waist, as by military officers as a part of the uniform or by women and children for ornament

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