



# **DISCOURSES OF LIVING ARCHITECTURAL SPACE: CASE STUDY : TRINCOMALEE**

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to the Dept. of Architecture  
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## Abstract

The study focuses on the existing physical context of the Trincomalee city. The historical background and the strategies that can be used in its conservation process is discussed. Being a living city reuse of buildings is a common fact, yet with lack of knowledge on its significance no proper conservation strategy can be followed.

The authorities and institutions which are responsible for formulating of development plans for the urban settings should identify the values assigned for age old public built structures and their environments in doing so.

City of Trincomalee as a historic city formed by the coloniels is losing its significance due to many reasons. Study reveals the importance of its physical context and suggests methods to protect it as a heritage.



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### The study

Although apparently detached from the way of life, people in every modern nation continue to associate themselves with their past. Among the very many methods and attributes which enable us to understand the past, perhaps the single most important attribute of a civilization is its built heritage. It was the monuments of Indus Maya and Inca civilizations that moved the world first and enabled the understanding of the different characteristics of those societies long after their dealing.

In this sense, the contribution of a city to the growth of civilization both as a social and physical entity is particularly significant. The cities which display various facets of this significance is quite important that diverse method and approaches have taken to safeguard and conserve its authenticity. Urban conservation as a built environment management strategy is able to facilitate a desirable symbiosis between man and environment and also capable of managing the changes of the urban setting

The age old buildings and settings are monuments which speaks about a countries history and some are assets being marvelous architectural edifices. Thus are protection worthy for the generations to come. Countries have evolved their own methods and also there are universal charters and guidelines for conserving and preserving the protection worthy old buildings and settings.

In Sri Lanka several cities have recognized as conserved areas and some are listed as heritage cities. Sri Lankans posses a glories historical past and a rich culture transforming from the past and evidently presented through the built environment of many a cities and towns. Also there are regions which are developed by colonials using the unique natural setting of the country.



Trincomalee is one such city developed basically for the military purposes specially on navigation using its natural bay as a harbor.

Civilization developed on the river banks as a water based settlement and later as a sea town with forts and ports.

The study deals with this significant city – Trincomalee presently affected by war and social unrest yet comprises of age old built spaces, many still in its original condition, some undergoing changes and others being reused for diverse activities. The study focuses its attention to the historical back ground, the physical context, the vitality of the existing built environment and the issues affecting on it.

### **Importance of the study**

Buildings in a living city always tend to get used for some purpose. With the changing needs spatial needs also differ and reusing occurs. More often it is visible that on this process the built structures get mutilated by the user or it getting alienated by the people.

In the city of Trincomalee this situation is more aggravated as it is affected by war, military functions and security problems. Hence the age old physical context under going mutilation and destruction rapidly while its significance partly hidden from the rest of the nation.

It is high time to identify the values and importance of the built environment and formulate measures to preserve it in the city of Trincomalee.

### **Intention of the study**

Physical setting of Trincomalee city has under gone changes from the days of early settlements up to date along with time and is further

facing changes due to the threat of war, the governing system and the city life accordingly.

The intention of the study is to discuss about the significance of the physical context, the architectural impact and it's value as a heritage site and also the present condition of them.

The study will reveal the causes which affects the architectural discourse and provides suggestions for its protection with the use of scholarly measures on conservation point of view.

In finding information it revealed that no systematic study has carried out during the recent past and only a few documented information are available on the physical context of the Trincomalee city.

This study intends to present the contemporary situation of the built fabric of Trincomalee city along with it's historical background. Also it is to be a description as well as an analysis of the city with photographic presentations highlighting its potentials and the threats. .

#### **Method of study**



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In order to achieve the above intention this study follows a case study method.

In the first chapter it discusses the phenomena of change and the spatial needs on changing demands. The architectural implications of change and the strategies of using the existing physical context specially those which proclaim some significance.

The second chapter is to describe the history of the Trincomalee city and to highlight it as a city which speaks its significance through the existing physical context. The changing form of the city is discussed from the early settlements up to the situation prevailing there today.

The third chapter is an attempt to describe the architectural discourse -the major elements in the urban landscape of the city and its present atmosphere .

Chapter four presents a description and an analytical study of five major significant buildings in the existing built fabric of the Trincomalee city. It also contains the impacts of existing heritage protection acts and conservation strategies on these buildings which are protection worthy under heritage acts.

The case study was carried out in the "Fort Frederic" and Trincomalee city centre where the city life has drastically changed due to the threat of war. The affected built fabric and the need for special consideration to upkeep the age old historic monuments and its landscape is further pointed out.

Research was carried out by referring the documents available. The back ground knowledge gained and the information collected on literary data were further studied by visiting the Trincomalee city, the 'Fort Fredric' and the outer region obtaining special permission from the relevant authorities and military officials. Data collected from the Urban Development authority and the interviews and discussions held with city people and naval officers were incorporated in examining the theme of the study.



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## CHAPTER ONE

# **1. CONTINUITY AND CHANGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT.**

## **1.1 Change as a natural phenomena.**

Since change is something we also observe, being filtered through our assessment of what the world is like, it is largely a subjective notion at least our perception of whether it is large or small change, a good or bad change. The world is in a constant state of flux. We can measure objectively against linear time the change of states in matter, but our judgment of the order of change is subjective. We are aware of change in a variety of ways. Some is almost subliminal, such as growing old, some is imperceptible, for example the movement of the atoms, while other change is supraliminal for example an explosion.

Most of what we regard as change is in the substantial 'middle range' of our experience, the dynamics of personal relationships, the opening and closing of buildings and our movement through space.

Buddhist understanding that all materialistic things have a finite life-span, made the Sinhalese-Buddhist accept the changes occurring with time as a cause of natural ageing thus 'seeing things as they are'.

Changes were not removed nor forcefully stopped, in the name of 'authenticity'

In all our day-to-day experience, change is observed as the mismatch between the current state of things, people and places, and our memory of the former state: the subjective perception of difference.

It is the constant change rate that each individual or group finds the most comfortable- a personal steady rate. As to Kevin Lynch, Change add novelty and adventure to living. Change must be made psychologically tolerable. One may be trained to live in a changing place and with changing social relationships." (1)

The social relationships, attitudes, values, behavior of people have started changing parallel to the economic structure of the country. The increasing productivity in the public as well as private sector encourage the quantitative dimension of life. The increase in the "pace" of all activities and the added value for, money in all aspects of life have given rise to a rapid change in man's physical environment too. This has led to a change in the overall pattern of living and, thus the pattern in man's built environment.

### **1.2. The architectural implication of change and the need for continuity.**

The man made environment is continuously rebuilt to reflect changing motives, attitudes and tastes as societies evolve politically, economically and technically.

Change in social attitudes and social structure make too much pressure on the social environment, that it occurs to happen rapid changes, at the same time to create new styles. In the mid 1950's architectural history was presented as a slow evolutionary process. One style growing from another in small increments.

Architectural history unfolded this way from the earliest structure of Egypt and Crete and each architectural phase was firmly rooted in the previous era.

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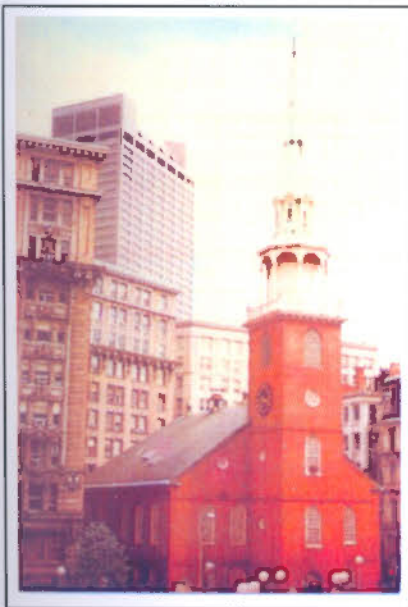
(1) Lynch, K. (1960) "The Image of the City" Cambridge :



Then suddenly an unnaturally the entire evolutionary process was presented as coming to a shuddering halt early this century. History stopped and modern art and architecture appeared pure and independent of past history. It was the end product of powerful stresses within society generated by accelerating industrial development and changing economy.

Traditional patterns of architecture and city building were viewed as synonymous with an aggressive and uncaring society, to be discarded and replaced by new forms based on modern rational and "humanistic thinking where turn-of the century buildings were piled high with no ornamentation and its form derived from the internal functional and structural requirements of the buildings.

In the process of rejecting the past, modern architecture became the inversion of past values. The disregard shown for the existing buildings in the surroundings of the new projects manifests the moral disdain displayed towards the traditional styles.



*Architecture - a medium through which the awareness of both space and time can be conveyed simultaneously, to the senses and the intellect, to the people individually and collectively. Built forms thus defines the relationship of man to his community and beyond to infinite time and space.*


**Fig: (01)**

"..... Architecture reflects man's needs in a way no other form of art does, and is thus the most complete and accurate witness to the material and

spiritual conditions of an age. This in some ways is a privilege, but it also means that architecture is more exposed than other works of art to the danger of disfiguring alterations; for it must continue to satisfy man's changing demands" (1)

Yet when this demanding, change is increased and beyond the level of tolerance the man finds himself stranded in an unknown realm, with this he loses his foothold and the very basis of his life.

Identifiable significant and discontinuous change is a break in the normally discerned constant rate of change. Therefore stability is preferred. Part of this stability is a sense of continuity with the past. Many intervening changes may occur but a prevailing sense of history, gives roots to this sense of stability and security. As to Kevin Lynch

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"A portion of the past has been saved as being good, and this promises that the future will so save the present." (2)

Thus continuity is, maintained or thought to be maintained, into the future.

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(1) Piero Gazzola (1972)

(2) Lynch, K. (1960) "The Image of the City" Cambridge :

### 1.3 Change and the need for Conservation.

#### 1.3.1 Conserving symbolic remains of past as a heritage.

Ever since man become aware of the concept of time, symbolic remains of the past were proclaimed on inheritance. The appreciation of the past for its documentary values, by enhancing man's knowledge- on man, provided with him an orientation in time and space. Urban settings; that represented a conquered nature by developing a reciprocal relationship between man and nature were also protected for symbolic values. The early cities of Teotihuacan, Babylon, Harappa are examples for conceiving urban settings as establishing an order needed for the beginning of a new civilisation.



**Fig: (02)**

Part of plan of Mohenjo – dard 3000 B.C  
(Early ludus Civilisations)



As continuous living in such established settings was considered safer and appropriate than buildings anew, there orders were reinterpreted. This protection of a past moulded the city and its society with a unique identity. Further, having guided by a collective value system, it facilitated a fundamental psychological performance and also reinforced a cultural continuity. Thus cultural continuity presupposes a continuous shaping of meanings or symbols, that are ordered collectively by a group of people, glimpsing the dynamic nature of a cultural heritage.

### **1.3.2. Awareness of urban heritage**

Since its very, beginning, the cities are places of immense concentration of resource, skill and power. Though primarily build to hold the administrative function of the territory, these cities gradually transformed themselves into centres of trade, manufacture, recreations and religious gathering.

The awareness of the city, first as a symbol for well being, then as a work of art and as a cultural setting, has diversified values of an urban heritage. Therefore it needs the total expression of an urbanscape to protect its heritage value.

A city is a concentration of cultural productions of civilisations. Evolving like a living entity, it accumulates layers of living experiences of individuals as members of a group. Being a foci of cultural diversification, it becomes an artifact. Mumford (1938) notes that city is

" . . . both a physical utility for collective living and a symbol of those collective purposes and unanimity that arise such favouring circumstances" (1)

Heritage value of an urban setting is thus enriched by its continuous evolution even it had a 'monumental origin'. City life is an essential element of the urban heritage that is not just a non-renewable resource but also a 'growing heritage'.

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(1) Mumford, L. (1938) "The Culture of Cities", New York :





## **1.4 Approaches on developing urban heritage**

### **1.4.1 Views and definitions.**

Imbued with a message from the past, the historic monuments of generations of people remain to the present, day as living witnesses of their age-old traditions. People are becoming more and more conscious of the unity of human values and regard ancient monuments as common heritage. The common responsibility to safeguard them for future generations is recognised. It is our duty to hand them on in the full richness of their authenticity.

It is essential that the principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings should be agreed and be laid down on an international basis, with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions.



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Accordingly, the second international congress of Architects and Technicians of historic monuments, which met in Venice from May 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 1964 approved the following text and known as the Venice charter that guided the conservation efforts since then.

## **Definitions**

**Article 1 :** The concept of an historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilisation, a significant development or an historic event. This applies not only to the great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with passing of time.

**Article 2 :** The conservation and restoration of monuments must have recourse to all the sciences and techniques which can contribute to the study and safeguarding of the architectural heritage.

**Article 3 :** the intention in conserving and restoring monuments is to safeguard them no less as works of art than as historical evidence.

## **Conservation**

**Article 4 :** It is essential to the conservation of monuments that they be maintained on a permanent basis.

**Article 5 :** The conservation of monuments is always facilitated by making use of them for some, socially useful purpose. Such use is therefore desirable but it must not change the layout or decoration of the building. It is within these limits only that modification demanded by, a change of function should be envisaged and may be permitted.

**Article 6 :** The conservation of a monument implies preserving a setting which is not out of scale. Wherever the traditional settings exist, it must be kept. No new construction, demolition or modification which would alter the relationships of mass and colour must be allowed.



**Article 7 :** A monument is inseparable from the history to which it bears witness and from the setting in which it occurs. The moving of all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except where the safeguarding of that monument demands it or where it is justified by national or international interests of paramount importance.

**Article 8 :** Items of sculpture, painting or decoration which form an integral part of a monument may only be removed from it if this is the sole means of ensuring preservation.

### **Restoration**

**Article 9 :** The resources of restoration is a highly specialised operation. Its aim is to preserve and reveal the esthetic and historic value of a monument and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. It must stop at the point where conjecture begins, and in this case moreover any extra work which is indispensable must be distinct from the architectural composition and must bear a contemporary stamp the restoration in any case must be preceded and followed by an archaeological and historical study of the monument.

**Article 10 :** Where traditional techniques prove inadequate, the consolidation of a monument can be achieved. by the use of any modern technique for conservation and construction, the efficacy of which has been shown by scientific data and proved by experience.

**Article 11 :** The valid contributions of all periods to the building of a monument must be respected, since unity of style is not the aim of restoration. When a building includes the super imposed work of different periods, the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances and when what is moved is of little interest the material which is brought to light is of great historical, archaeological or aesthetic value, and its state of

preservation good enough to justify the action. Evaluation of the importance of the elements involved and the decision as to what may be destroyed cannot rest solely on the individual in charge of the work.

**Article 12 :** Replacements of missing parts must integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time must be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence.

**Article 13 :** Additions cannot be allowed except in so far as they do not detract from the interesting parts of the building, its traditional setting, the balance of its composition and its relation with its surroundings.

#### **Historic sites**

**Article 14 :** The sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity and ensure that they are cleared and presented in a seemly manner. The work of conservation and restoration carried out in such places should be inspired by the principles set forth in the forgoing articles.

#### **Excavations**

**Article 15 :** Excavation should be carried out in accordance with scientific standards and recommendation defining international principles to be applied in the case of archaeological excavation adopted by UNESCO 1956.

Ruins must be maintained and measures necessary for the permanent conservation and protection of architectural features and of objects discovered must be taken.

Furthermore every means must be taken to facilitate the understanding of the monument and to reveal it without ever distorting its meaning.

All reconstruction work should however be ruled out a priori. Only anastylosis, that is to say, the reassembling of existing but dismembered parts can be permitted. The materialised for integration should always be recognisable and its use should be the least that will ensure the conservation of a monument and the reinstatement of its form.

#### **1.4.2. Urban conservation approaches**

The term urban conservation has been given a specific definition in urban planning and is taken to mean the use of resources embodied in the physical environment. This is particularly, so with regard to urban landscapes with greater beauty, historic/association, or cultural identity. Hence it is a dynamic process which, transforms and synthesises the historic context within the requirement of contemporary urban restructuring.

Many until recently were of the view that conservation halted the process of development. This stems from the earlier practice of preserving historic quarters by freezing whole or part of cities. The obvious danger in trying to turn historic town centres into museum objects, by adopting a policy of preservation at any cost, has been disregarded today as unjust. An excellent example of this could be sighted in our very own Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. These two major indigenous cities where the deliberate isolation of historic quarters have occurred, turning them into 'look at' monuments.

This as expressed by Appleyard

"..... Passive conservation entombed the historic city, turning it into a deteriorating museum, policy now



being abandoned in favour of active conservation..... many espouse concepts such as active conservation, 'revitalisation' and 'reanimation'. The French for instance now consider dropping the old term 'safeguarded' areas in favour of 'revitalised' or 'rehabilitated' ones. Such positions acknowledge the need for the social and economic life of historic centres to survive". (1)

Thus active participation of the community is very necessary for the survival of the historic centres. Keeping the monument in use has identified as a method, which facilitates its survival.

### **1.5. Reuse of monuments and buildings and settings**

There are not sufficient resources in the world for the built environment to be reconstructed a new for each generation. No would it be right that it should be so, unless the layers of history that each generation applies to the built environment are to be ignored.

Especially in developing countries the use of existing solidly constructed building stock is important as they minimise the use of new resources and reduce the extra burden of maintaining them.

The desire to retain historical monuments is not only a desire for the physical form of those but a certain stability in the mental images. It also imply social values for keeping the monuments in use as

- Endowment value - future generations of users want the structure to be intact for them as cultural heritage.
- Existence value - Infrequent users of them have an interest in its being there for their occasional use.

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(1) Appleyard D. (1974) "The conservation of European Cities" Cambridge :

The economic consideration is a strong reason for reuse projects.

" ..... The greatest success in heritage preservation can occur when the heritage element is in actual use and thus capable of generating revenue to pay for its preservation". (Netzer D 1996 P. 4)

Historic monuments located in an established area provide many potentials for its reuse while proclaiming its significance.

According to Fielden M. (1994)

"The best way of preserving buildings as opposed to objects is to keep them in use a practice which may involve what the French call 'mise en valeur' or modernisation with or without adaptive alteration. The original use is generally the best for conservation of fabric, as it means fewer changes utilising a mediaeval convent in Venice to house a school and laboratory for stone conservation, or turning an eighteenth century barn into a domestic dwelling is often the only way that historic and aesthetic values can be saved economically and historic buildings brought up to contemporary standards". (Fielden M 1994 P.10)

It is important to retain the distinctive features of a building or group of buildings including size and scale, mass and roof outline as well landscape features so that even with new use the building is still recognisable as part of the fabric of town. The Venice charter also recommends facilitating

"..... Some socially useful function" on which the Sri Lankan Icomos has expressed doubts as this article endangers the ruins. (Venice charter article 5 and ICOMOS (Sri Lanka) 1990)



Reuse is a form of recycling materials or recycling space. The recycling of both buildings and building components is part of the history of architecture. When reusing a structure designed for one purpose, alterations necessary can often more or less obliterate the Original form of the structure of the monument. This produces a dilemma in conservation projects. The activity of reuse is done on three methods.

(1) Adaptive reuse

Converting an existing building from its originally intended (or currently defined) purpose to a new one.

(2) Continued Use

Consciously extending the useful life of important older buildings for the purpose originally intended.

(3) New Additions

Adding compatible new construction onto older structures or building structures which 'fit' within an established historic context.

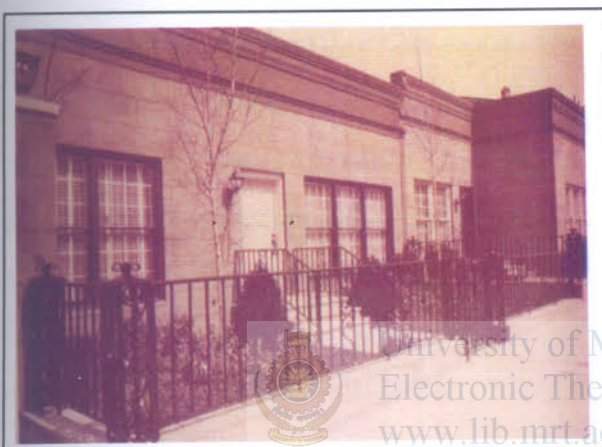
There are three basic approaches for this.

- ❖ Recreation - Copying the design of the past with today materials and labour. Critics claim that this approach is anachronistic, lacks originality, and may deceive the untrained observer into believing that new is actually not new.
- ❖ Tokenism - Incorporating an artefact or piece of old building as a historic symbol within new construction. Furthermore, tokenism generally creates sculptures of portions of buildings never intended for that purpose.
- ❖ Compatible Contemporary additions - Building in Today's idiom, but relating the new building to adjacent older building through design elements such as scale, proportion, configuration, pattern, materials, colour and texture. In reusing the conserved monuments or sites



**Fig: (04-a)**

Fig. (04-a-b)  
The old stores converted  
into town houses In a  
Conservation programme of  
a city in New York



**Fig: (04-b)**



**Fig: (05)**

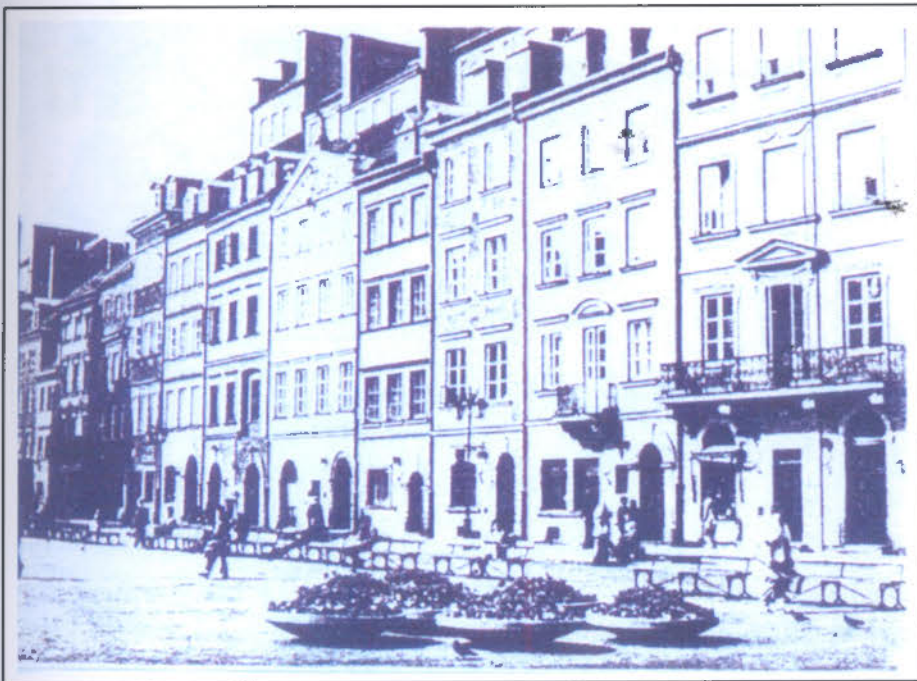
A new addition while preserving the  
historic monumental building for its  
reuse



Some spaces may need adaptive reuse while other remain for continued use or may require new additions. In such situations it needs conservation regulation and its policies to control and manage the setting.

Many of the conserved cities have emphasised the outdoor perspectives recording the character of the townscape experience only and it is the surface conservation. Whether in passive or active conservation can distinguish between surface and deep conservation.

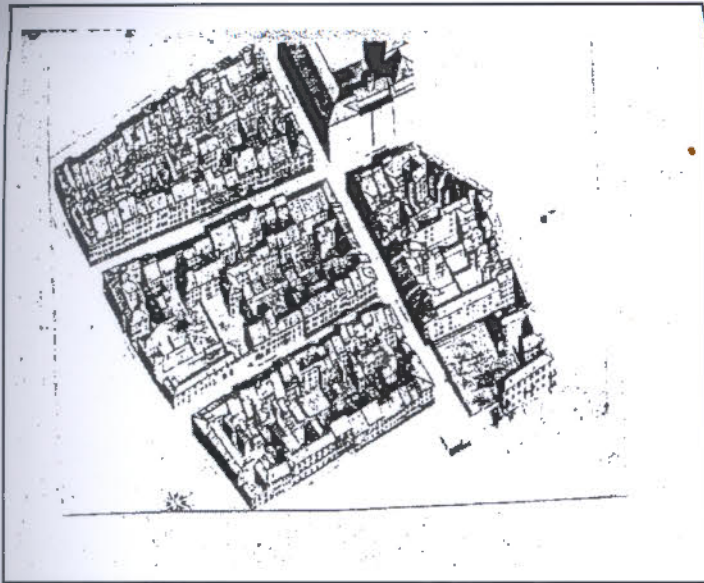
Surface conservation attends to the external appearance and character of conserved areas. In the centre of Rome, passive conservation has controlled the appearance of buildings without active programmes of external upgrading. The old city with its peeling paint and sun-washed facades look authentically old. But the interiors have been modernised. In Warsaw the old centre was reconstructed in exact historical form while the interiors were altered.



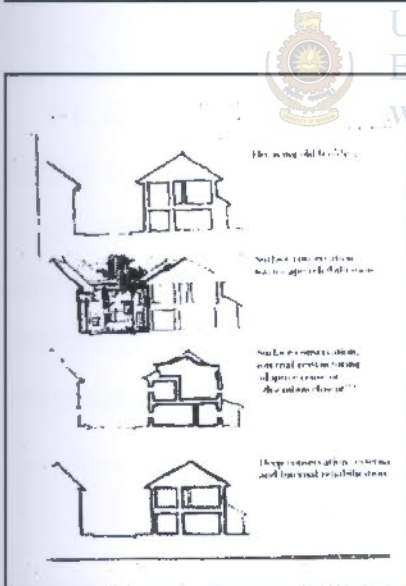
**Fig: (06) Warsaw**



Deep conservation attempts to restore a historic environment in rigorous, complete and accurate form, inside as well as outside. While many historic buildings have been so preserved, the efforts of cities like Bologna have been to integrate deep restoration with active reuse.



**Fig: (07)**  
Bologna



**Fig: (08)**  
Types of conservation  
(Townscape rehabilitation)

The methodology used in the revitalisation of 'split' is based on the concept of active conservation and reuse the historical objects as a method of conservation.

"The most efficient way to protect monumental and historical objects is to include them in the modern living functions of the area. This results in- the. planning of financial and technical possibilities for their Organisation and revitalisation." (Marasovic T,-revitalisation of split)



**Fig: (09)**

*Restored interior of the south east tower of Diocletian's palace, now the conference hall of the split Zagreb motorway construction enterprises. One of the best presented examples of late imperial palace architecture.*

While reusing carried out in Plaka an old sector of the city of Athens facing a problem of survival as on the demand of a modern city on one hand and on the other the archaeologists who view plaka as a space where their interests should have precedence. But reuse plaka buildings are either being disfigured in order that they may correspond to the new function. **Fig: (10)**



**Fig: (10)**



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## **CHAPTER TWO**

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### **2. TRANSPOMATION OF THE HISTORIC CITY OF TRINCOMALEE**



## 2.1. CHANGING FORM OF THE CITY OF TRINCOMALEE.

### 2.1.1. Early settlements in Kottiar

As mentioned in the Mahawamsa, the recorded history of Trincomalee starts from 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. It can be proved from the under mentioned quotation "Sri Gokanna Vihara was built in the reign of King Mahasen (276 – 303 A.D.)(1) It was the earliest Buddhist edifice in Trincomalee.

According to the great chronicles "Mahawamsa" and "Chulawamsa" 1st recorded early settlements of Trincomalee is at "Kottiar".

This adjacent land towards the south of Kottiar bay is called "Kottiar" in early days. At present "Kottiar" is called "Kinnia", "Muttur" and "Sampoor". In recent past Sampoor is an un cleared area but now Sampoor is cleared area. **Annexure: (3)** The longest and the famous river in Sri Lanka the Mahaweli River ends up at Kottiar bay.

The great Chronicle "Chulawamsa" describes an incident of winning war at Kottiar by a Sinhala King Wickramabahu who ruled polonnaruwa during 1111 to 1132. A.D.

The king Gajabahu II ruled Plonnaruwa in 1132-1153 A.D. used Kottiar as a regional residence.

The "Chulawamsa" describes that there were villages in Kottiar, they were "Thannaruwa", "Waluka Pattaya", "Kohombangama", "Pillampitiya", "Mangala Begamaya", "Ambagawa", "Thannithiththaya", "Antharavittiya", "Uddhavapiya".

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(1) Kannangara, E.T.(1984), "Jaffna and the Sinhala Heritage", Lake House, Colombo: Associated news papers of Ceylon Ltd.page 35

When analyzing these names, it is obvious that settlers of these villages were Sinhalese (1).

The captain of the ship was Robert Knox and his son too was there. Robert Knox was resting under a large Tamarind tree. The natives at the area gave a message to the Kandyan King. Eventually Robert Knox, his son junior Robert Knox and all fifteen of the crew were arrested. Later captain Robert Knox died of malaria under the custody of Kandyan King.

Junior Robert Knox wrote a book about the people, culture and the behavior of the people.

From this incident, it is revealed that in the year 1660 A.D. "Kottiar area" was ruled under the Kandyan Kingdom.

The Tamarind tree where Robert Knox (senior) was resting could be identified today. **fig : (11)**



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There were some manmade rock ruins, could be seen in the Kottiar Jungle today. But some people have taken those ruins for their private usage. These ruins witness that there were settlements in Kottiar.



**Fig: (11)** The Tamarind Tree, where Robert Knox (senior) was resting

**Source :** Cave, Henry W. (1900) "GOLDEN TIPS".

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(1) Perera G.C. (18.06.2003) DIVAINA, "Ahimiwu Urumayaka Mathakaya – Kottiyarama hewath Kotaghara".

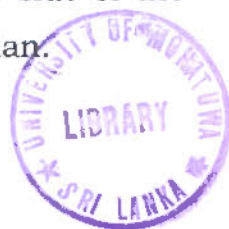
### 2.1.2. Early settlements in Trincomalee city

The preliminary road layout which recorded in Dutch plans prepared in 1770, evolved more than 200 years up to **map:(1)**. Though these road layout recorded from 1770 by the Dutch, Portuguese definitely may have involved to create this early road network. Because they were the First Colonial invaders to Trincomalee in 1612. Not only Portuguese but also Muslims may have involved to create this road network. It is proved that there were Muslim coastal settlement close to the Nicholson cove of Trincomalee Bay. (1) Nicholson cove is the cove close to the fort Ostenburg. It is the safest cove for ship Anchorages in Trincomalee bay.

Another fact is that there were Arabic grave stones found from "Sandy Bay" and Chapel Hill. (2)(3) (see the area map of Ostenburg, Trincomalee, in the appendix. As per the Somasiri Devendra's papers these Gravestones belong to the year 1529 A.D. These Muslim villages situated northwards and close to the entrance from the sea of Trincomalee bay. (see the "area map of Ostenburg", Trincomalee)

These Muslims dealt with the Kandyan Kingdom. And they used Trincomalee bay and hinterlands of Trincomalee for their day to day needs and trading. They made paths or road from Ostenburg area to the country. These roads definitely run through or by the side of the first colonial settlements, which is shown in 1770 Dutch Plan.

**Map: (1).**



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- (1) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003) *Trikunamala varaye jathyanthara vedagathkama*; M.A. Thesis ; University of Sri Jayawardenapura. P 33
  - (2) Devendra, S. (1970), "Arabic Gravestone from Trincomalee Docyard", *Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon) Vol-XIV New series.*
  - (3) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003) *Trikunamala varaye jathyanthara vedagathkama*; M.A. Thesis ; University of Sri Jayawardenapura P 33





“King Agga Bodhi V(718-724A.C)Built monastery and sitting hall (asanasala) for monks of Trincomalee”(1)

“In the wars of Parakkamabahu I(1153-1186A.C) it is said ,Fleets with powerful naval forces were directed on many occasions to Rammanna and South India from Trincomalee. History provides sufficient evidence that from the very dawn of Sri Lanka’s story, Trincomalee and East, like Jaffna and the North ,were areas thickly populated by Sinhala” (2)

From these quotations it is revealed that the former “Gokanna area” is presently consist of Fort Frederick area, and Fort Osrenburg area, and Trincomalee Bay (or Kottirar Bay) and the present “Kottiar” is called “Kinniya”, “Muththur” “and “Sampoor” which were populated by Sinhalese including above discussed first colonial settlements area.

Hence, from very early time initially Sinhalese, Secondly Arabians and thirdly the Colonials influenced to create new city of Trincomalee.

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(1) Kannangara, E.T.(1984), Jaffna and the sinhala heritage, Lakehouse Colombo Associated news papers of Ceylon Ltd P.35

(2) Ibid



### 2.1.3.Colonial Settlements in the Trincomalee City

Though, the Trincomalee (including Trincomalee bay) has a very old history systematically recorded history can be found easily, when starting from the colonial period. Earlier it is discussed that very early settlements of Trincomalee recorded at “Kottiar”. Small town areas are functioning now at this earlier “Kottiar area”. But present Trincomalee City is far away from Kottiar, due to the Geographical conditions, any person coming to the present city should go right round the or Kottiar Bay. **Map: (2)**



**Map: (2)** Trincomalee Bay (COTTIAR BAY)

(also known as kottiar Bay)

When we refer the oldest map of Trincomalee, prepared by the Dutch in 1770 **Map: (1)** there are two Forts to be seen, to the North is Fort Frederick (this will be discussed in a another Chapter) to the South is Fort Ostenburg. **Map: (1)** Ostenburg stands for OOST-EN-BURG (Eastern Hill) in Dutch.



It is easy to study “the changing form of the Trincomalee City “ by comparing these two maps.(1770 map and the satellite image 2005 )

Early colonial urban settlements can be seen in the map of 1770

The 1770 Dutch map shows a four road junction. At the same time if we refer the present day City guide map of Trincomalee and the satellite image, that junction is probably the present day “Clock tower junction”. The clock tower junction is the “Major service centre” at present. In the City of Trincomalee. Following are the services providing within this major service centre. Bus terminal, and close proximity to railway terminal, Daily market, Whole sale Fish Market, Fuel Stations, State Banks, Private Banks, recreational facilities such as Guest Houses, large Play Ground and Stadium etc.



**Fig: (12)** Clock Tower  
of Trincomalee



**Fig: (13)** Bus Terminal Trincomalee



**Fig: (14)** Guest House Close to  
The Trincomalee  
Clock Tower

Another important Place is “the back bay” that is in close proximity to the clock tower junction in the colonial period back bay is a sail ship harbour. **Fig: (15)**



**Fig: (15)** Back Bay Sailing Ship Harbour.

**Source:** Paranavithana K.D. & de Silva R.K.(2002) “Maps & Plans of Dutch Ceylon”

At present this small harbour is used as a fishing harbour. The whole sale fish market is located near by. **Annexure (5)**

As per the 1770 Dutch prepared map, between Fort Frederick and Fort Ostenburg there is a block of land. The said earlier roads are running through and running right round the above land blocks. These land blocks are used for residential purposes **“These land blocks are the first urban land blocks of Trincomalee. Thus, they are the first colonial settlements of present day Trincomalee City”** (Paranavithana K.D. & de Silva R.K.(2002) P150).

When we discuss the location of these settlements, they were mainly located between two forts. The Fort Fredrick and the Fort Ostenburg. **Map (1)**

Another major reason for the use of these lands for their first settlements is that the closeness to the Dutch bay. When Portuguese were in Trincomalee they mainly used this bay for their ship



Anchorage and when the Dutch attacked the Portuguese fort (Now Fort Frederick) in 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1639 landing at that bay . It was called Dutch bay.

At the same time they have used the inner harbour for safe Anchoring facilities for their ships and other vessels. Meanwhile very later the Dutch maintained a custom house for inner harbour. At the moment it can be seen at Trincomalee inner harbour road. **Annexure: (5)** (More details discussed in a following chapter)

When analyzing again 1770 dutch map and the Trincomalee satellite image **Annexure: (5)** and the Trincomalee city Guide map **Annexure: (4)** together, changing form of the Trincomalee can be identified.

As proved earlier the location of first colonial settlement identified with the help of 1770 Dutch map. The road net work of that early settlements evolved more than 200 years. The last colonials were the English, some roads are renamed by them. Some road names are not changed and some dutch road names prevails as they were. As per the Trincomalee City guide map **Annexure: (4)** Hospital Lalne, yard approach road, Dock Yard Road, Fathima Road, Custom Road, Post Office Road, Vavuniya Street, Green Road, College Street, Takkiya Road, Inner Harbour Road and Dyke Road are the roads which belong to "earliest Colonial settlements of Trincomalee City". That Zone which was identified as early settlements with the help of the map which was prepared by the dutch in 1770 **Map: (1)** is pointed out by a circle in the city guide map of Trincomalee with in that zone I identified a very special colonial building, which is now in dilapidated conditions. Trincomalee City guide map it shows as a small square labeled Eastern University. Trincomalee satellite image it shows with in a red circle and labeled naval commissioners bungalow.



That building is Naval Commissioners House. Due to its Architectural importance of selected this building for my case studies in this dissertation.



**Fig: (16)** Naval Commissioner's House in 2006



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**Fig: (17)** Naval Commissioner's House in 1906

**Source:** Cave Henry W.(1900) "Golden Tips"

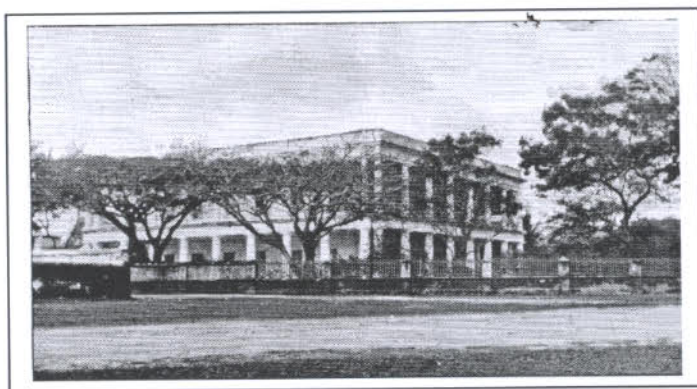
That building is Naval Commissioners House. Due to its Architectural importance of selected this building for my case studies in this dissertation.



**Fig: (16)** Naval Commissioner's House in 2006



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**Fig: (17)** Naval Commissioner's House in 1906

**Source:** Cave, Henry W.(1900) "Golden Tips"



With in this study it is identified “earliest colonial settlements of Trincomalee” and it is pointed out as a Zone. That zone is shown in the Trincomalee city guide map, drawing a circle **Annexure: (2)** within that zone compiler could find old colonial influenced buildings and native buildings. At the same time it is observed that, with in the aforesaid circle is higher than the out side the circle.

Among those Houses 95% are residential other 5% are shop houses. When we were trying photographing them, some house owners did not give their consent to photograph their houses. Here compiler attaches some photographs, which had permission.



**Fig: (18)** Renovated old house at Hospital Road, Trincomalee. Photograph taken in 2006.



**Fig: (19)** Same House in 1980's

**Source:-**Dominic Sansoni



**Fig: (20)**Renovated building as a House at hospital road, Trincomalee, Photograph taken in 2006



**Fig: (21)** same building in 1980's

**Source:-**Dominic Sansoni





**Fig: (22)** Old house at identified historical residential zone Trincomalee.



**Fig: (23)** Old house at identified historical residential zone Trincomalee.



**Fig: (24)** Deteriorating Old house at identified residential zone Trincomalee.



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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3. MAJOUR ELEMENTS IN URBAN LANDSCAPE**

### 3.1. Forts of Trincomalee

"During the 1500s many major nations of Europe overflowed their boundaries. They took to the seas, both to the East and to the west, in sailing ships firing cannon broadside. Such ships and such cannon were to rule politics for the next three hundred years. First came the Portuguese and the Spaniards. After them came the Dutch, the British and the French. All of them founded overseas Empires.

Ancient Empires they maintained themselves by building forts, most of them have now disappeared. Of them, however, one astonishing historical survival exists to this day. This is the ring of, in general, perfectly preserved forts built on a national scheme by the Dutch East India Company round the coasts of Ceylon during the 1600s and 1700s. Their preservation is in part an unexpected by-product of the supremacy of the Royal Navy throughout the 1800s.

These Sri Lankan Forts were designed to withstand both the unconquered Sinhalese in the central hills and the rival British and French East India Companies. (1) They fall in to several Co-ordinated groups, each with a chief fortress. Their main purpose was to render security to the Island's import and export trade. They were, in fact, the Netherlands' chief exporters to Ceylon, for they were copybook patterns of fortifications then going up all over Europe. In all, they numbered close on forty and varied from large peninsular walled towns to small guard posts at water crossings. Their designs were clever, ingenious and varied.

---

(1) Nelson, W. A. (1984) The Dutch forts of Sri Lanka, The military Monuments of Ceylon, Scotland: Conongate Publishing Limited.



### 3.1.1. Fort Frederick

#### 3.1.1.1. Exterior of the Fort.

It is to the north of the harbour area: that the first –built fort still survives. In Dutch times the hilly land was called Pagoda Hill. (1) It was given its present name of “Fort Frederick” by the British after it had come in to their hands.

In 1803 British named this Fort, to pay as a respect for the Duke of York, was commander-in-chief of the British army. At the same time when they sail in the warships, British used the name “Frederick” as a “secret war code”(2)



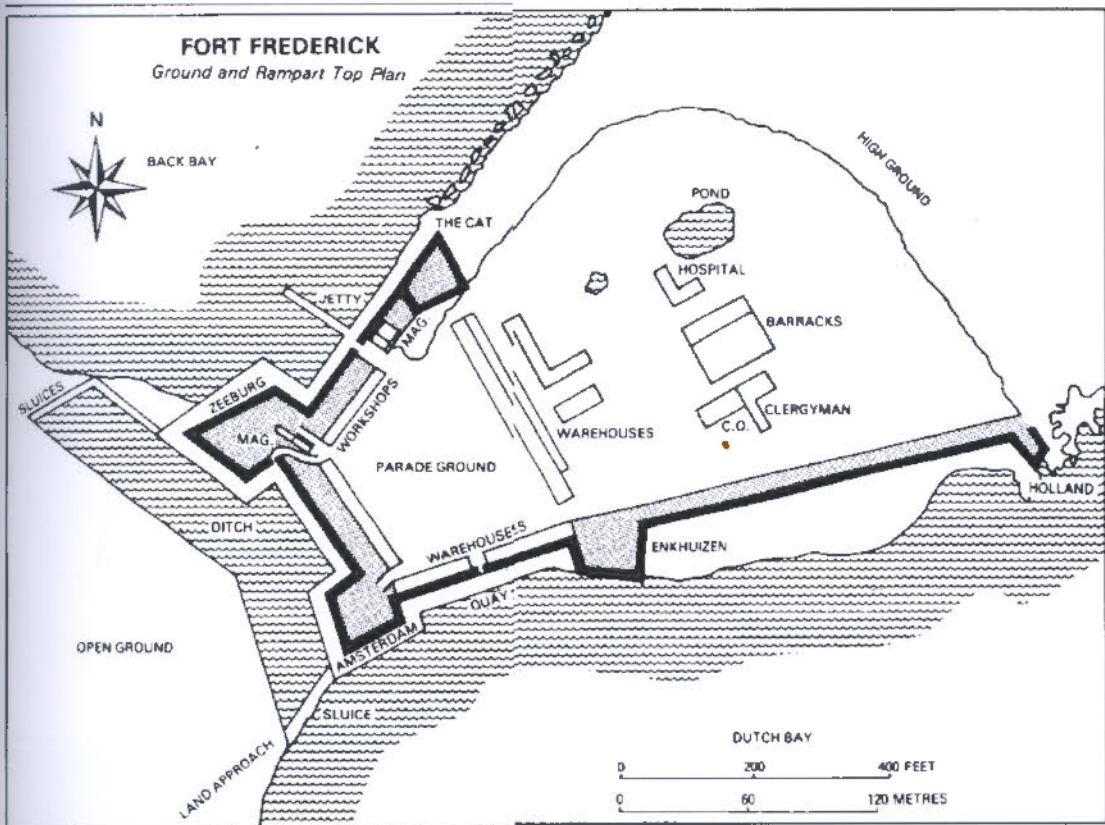
“Pagoda Hill”

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**Map:(3)** Trincomalee District

**Source :** Nelson W.A. (1984), The Dutch forts of Sri Lanka

- 
- (1) Brohier, R. L. (1978), “Link between Sri Lanka and the Netherlands”, Sri Lanka: Caxton Printing work Ltd.
  - (2) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003), “Trikunamala varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama”. M. A. Thesis: University of Sri Jayawardhanapura.



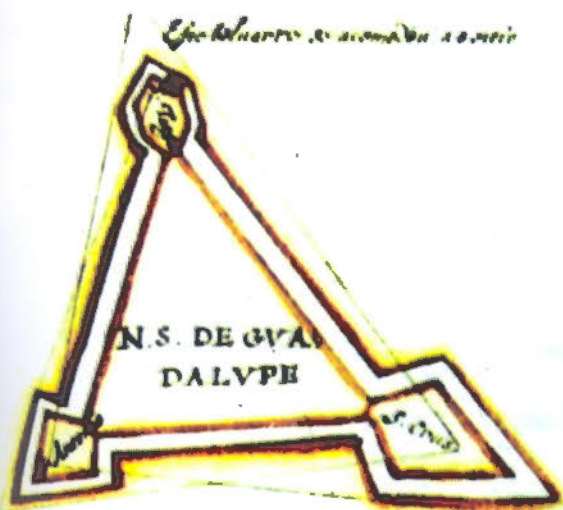
**Plan: (1)** Fort Frederick, Dutch Plan in 1787

**Source :** Nelson W.A. (1984), The Dutch forts of Sri Lanka

The Dutch named this fort as "Fort Trincomalee" at "Pagoda Hill"

Portuguese named this fort as "Fort Eleesa"

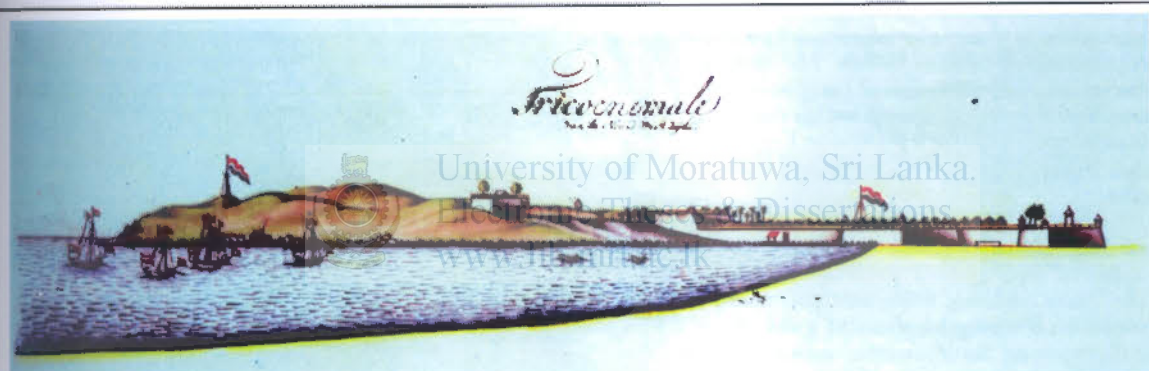
Portuguese were the first colonial nation to recognize Trincomalee as the key to the orient. They built themselves a Fort in 1634, at the base of the craggy promontory called "Swami Rock". At the same time there stood crowning this summit, a celebrated: "Temple of thousand columns". The temple was Demolished and the Stones were used to build the Fort . The Fort was in the form of a triangle, with a bastion at each corner .The Fort possessed only fourteen guns in all: six pounders, said to have been taken from a wrecked Danish ship.



**Plan: (2)**

Plan of first fort at "Pagoda Hill" –Trincomalee (now Fort Frederick)

**Source :-** Paranavithana, K. D & De Silva R.K. (2002), maps and plans of Dutch Ceylon.



**Fig: (25)** Fort Frederick from the Back bay Beach



**Fig: (26)** Fort Frederick from the Northwest side.

**Source :** Paranavithana K.D. & De Silva R.K. (2002), Maps and plans of Dutch Ceylon.



The new fort (fort Frederick) built at “Trincomalee “ when rumours of French and British expansion reached the Dutch in 1658,was on the same site of the earlier Fort on Swamy Rock. They called it “Pagoda Hill”. Concurrently Kottiar Fort was also strengthened and re-fortified.



**Fig: (27 )** perspective view of Fort Frederick



**Fig: (28)** Ground plan of Fort Frederick

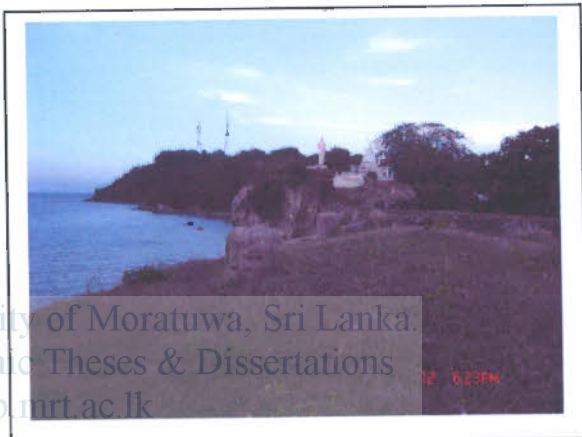
**Source :** Paravithana K.D. & De Silva R.K. (2002) Maps and plans of Dutch Ceylon.

**Fort Frederick** was built in about 1660, on the site of the earlier Portuguese fort captured in 1639 and then handed over to the Kandyans for destruction in 1643 .Its main element is the west front of two large bastions with a length of rampart between them.

The Dutch plan of about 1787, shows that the Northern bastion, "Zeeburg", serves to cover the point of greatest danger from both land and sea approaches. From that west point, lines of rampart run backwards until they meet the high ground in their rear.



**Fig: (29)** Zeeburg Bastion



**Fig:(30)** Photo taken from top of the Zeeburg Bastion towards the rear of the Fort.

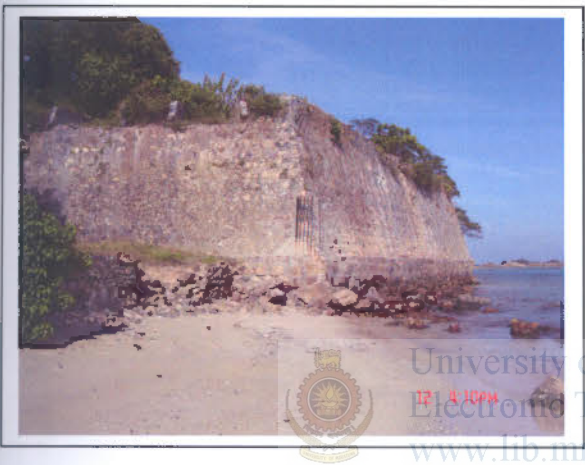
In the center of both the north and south ramparts are gates on to the sea, the north on to Back Bay, with a jetty, and the south, with a Quay, on to the Dutch Bay.(At the movement the Jetty cannot be seen and the Quay is not functioning .)The north rampart is the shorter, for it soon meets the ground, which is used as the site for a gun battery termed the "Cat".

The smaller bastion , Amsterdam ,has two more three- sided works lying to its east –"Enkhuizen Bastion" and, hard against the high ground , "Holland Bastion". The last two are joined by a long straight line of rampart.

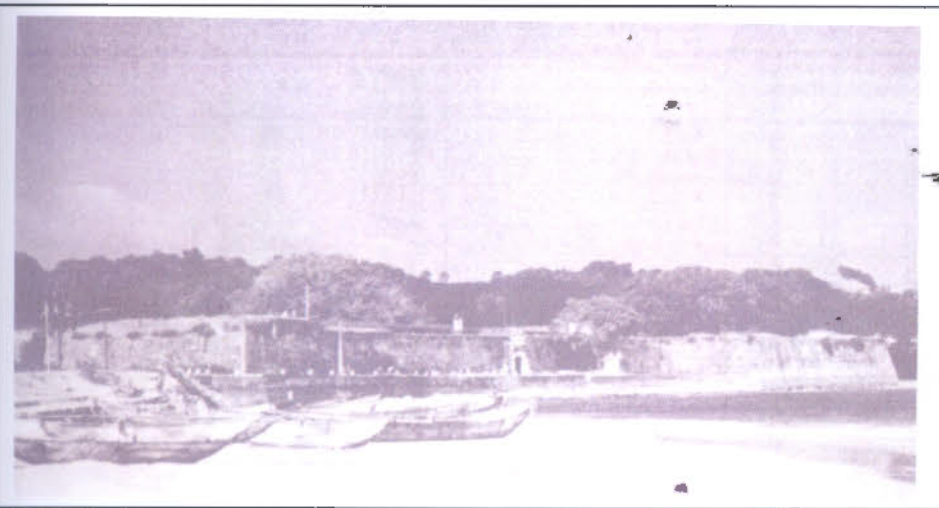




**Fig: (31)** Amsterdam Bastion



**Fig: (32)** Enkhuizen Bastion



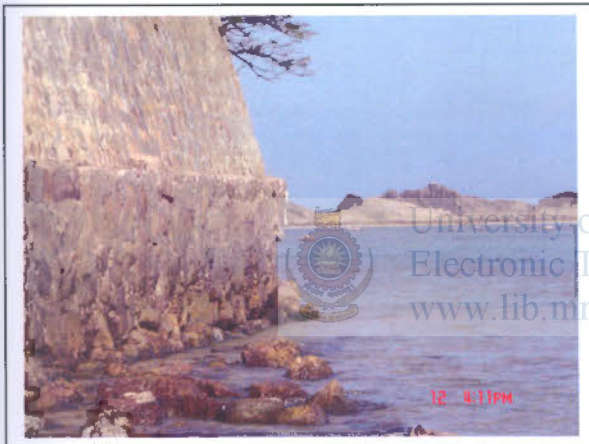
**Fig: (33)** Amsterdam and Enkhuizen Bastions, facing Dutch Bay.  
**Source :** Nelson W.A.(1984) Dutch forts of Sri Lanka



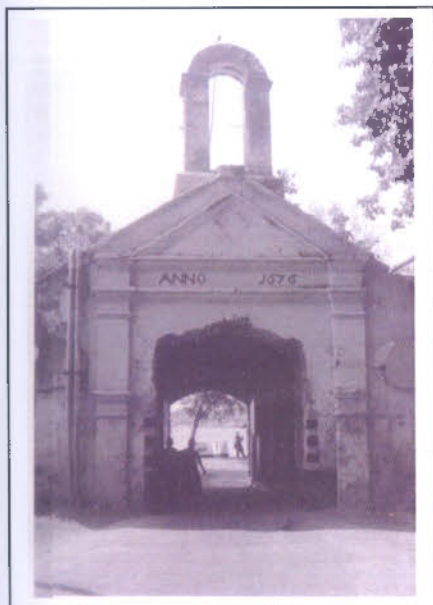
Both Bastions show five gun embrasures on their visible faces. Above the gate in the center of the rampart is the customary bell arch. Enkhuizen and Holland can be seen extending down to the water. The inner higher part of the peninsula is in the background.



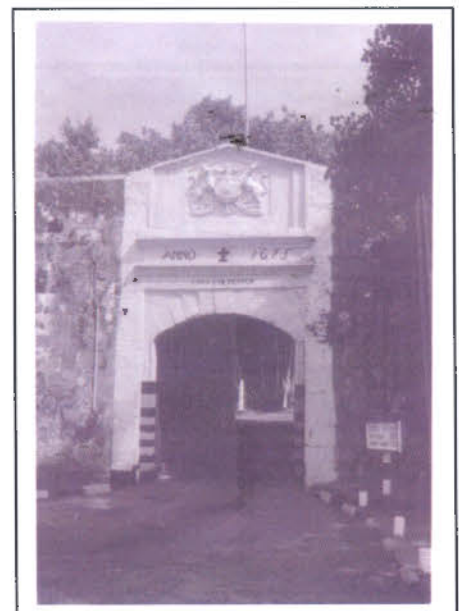
**Fig: (34)** Holland bastion  
Extending down to the water



**Fig: (35)** Enkhuizen bastion  
Extending down to the Water



**Fig: (36)** Bell arch on Fort Frederick (Photograph taken in 1984)  
**Source :** Nelson W.A(1984) Dutch of Sri Lanka



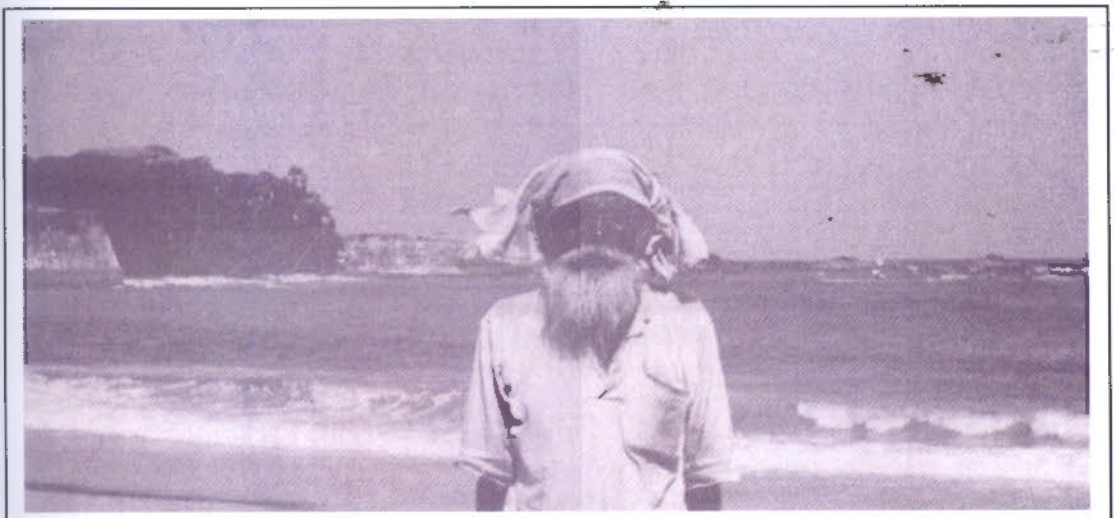
**Fig: (37)** Gateway Fort (Photograph taken in 1984)  
**Source :** Nelson W.A (1984) Dutch forts of Sri Lanka

Here is the outside of that gate, with above it the date 1673 with the British name of Fort Frederick and the British Coat of arms. the rampart stonework is soundly-built squared coral and its height is some 20 feet.

In the foreground there are four old mortars, somewhat soundly decorated applying silver and black. Although these pieces are not so set, it is used to be customary to fix mortars at an angle of 450 and to vary the range by varying the powder charge.



**Fig: (38)** Old mortars in the for ground of the Fort Frederick.  
(see Gun embrasures of the Amsterdam Bastion at background)



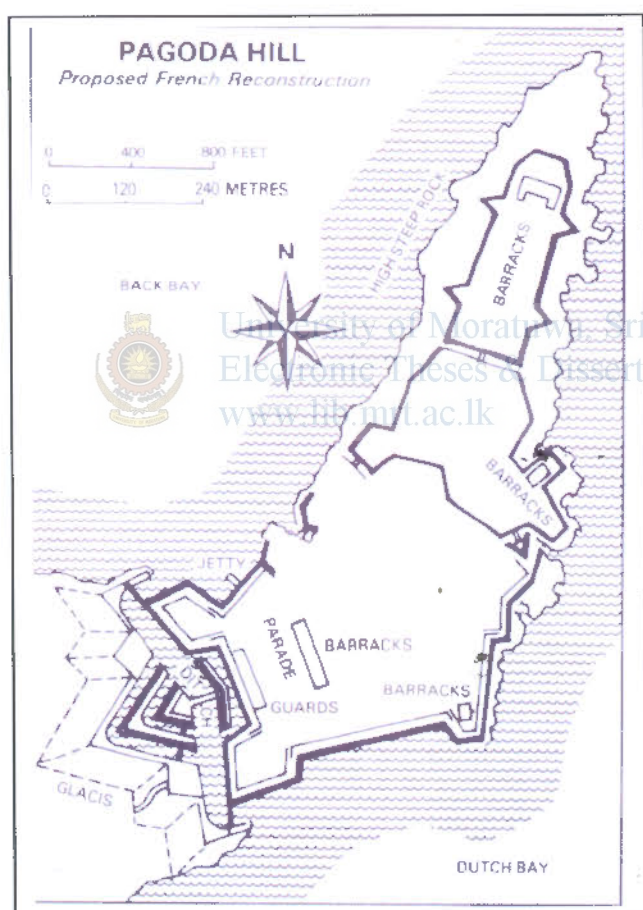
**Fig: (39)** East end of the South front of the Fort Frederick

**Source :** Nelson W.A.(1984) Dutch forts of Sri Lanka



The fishermen in the foreground is interesting but in the background show Eukhuisen and Holland Bastions, with the rampart between them now over ground. Rock run out in a line from Holland. The building on the skyline is the rest house that lies high up on the peninsula.

The keen French in Trincomalee persisted in 1787, five years after they had held it and only two years before the Revolution, their Admiralty produced a plan for the total rebuilding of "Pagoda Hill" where the Fort Trincomalee (now Fort Frederick) located.



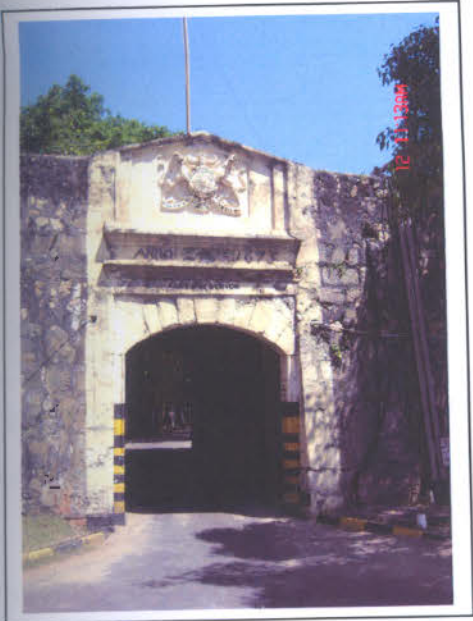
**Plan: (3)** French Proposal Plan in 1787

**Source :** Nelson W.A. (1984) Dutch forts of Sri Lanka

Here, it is discussed the exterior related facts of the Fort Frederick. The interior of the fort and the buildings will be discussed next.



3.1.1.2. Interior of the Fort



Here is the exterior of the Fort, a grand Gate way could be seen with the year 1673 on the top of it, and the British name “Fort Frederick” and the British coat of arms. The rampart Stone work is soundly built with squared coral and its height is some 20 feet.

Fig: (40) Gateway ,Fort Frederick

When entering through the gate way, a crest, engraved in stone could be found and with it there is a double fish emblem of Pandyan kings insignia on either side of the fort gate. Concurrently there is a separate stone inscription below the crest.

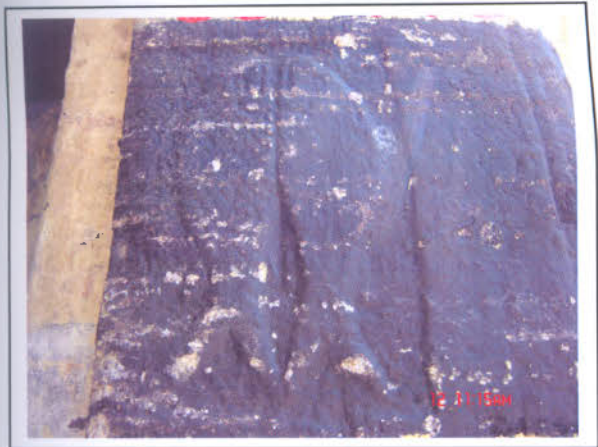


Fig:(41) Stone carved crest of “Double Pandyan Fish” in the gateway door jamb.



Fig: (42)The right door jamb of the gate way with the stone carved crest, the tsunami water level in 2004 also indicated.



**Fig: (43)** The road towards the Fort Frederick.

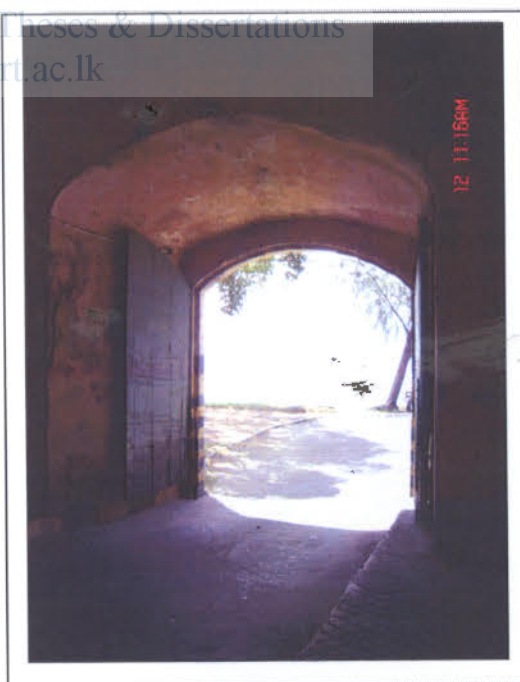


**Fig: (44)** The road running through the Fort Frederick

There is a “wooden plaque” inside the gateway. The plaque describes the history of the fort Frederick. Gate way doors are arch shaped. Arch shaped thick wooden double sashed door can be seen for the rear of the gate way .



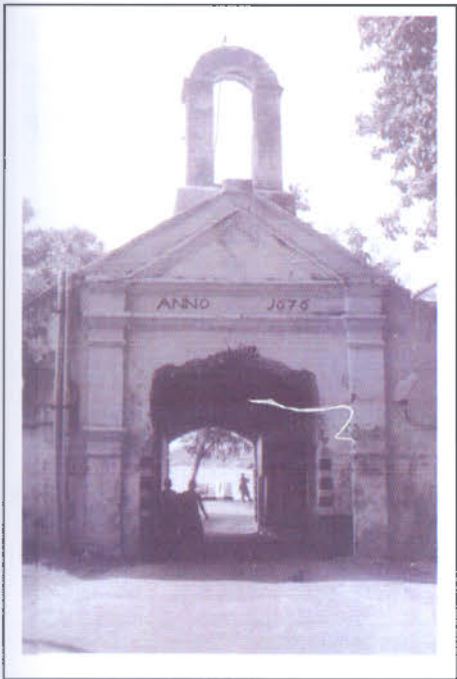
**Fig: (45)** Wooden plaque inside the gate way.



**Fig: (46)** Thick double wooden shash in the rear of the gate way .

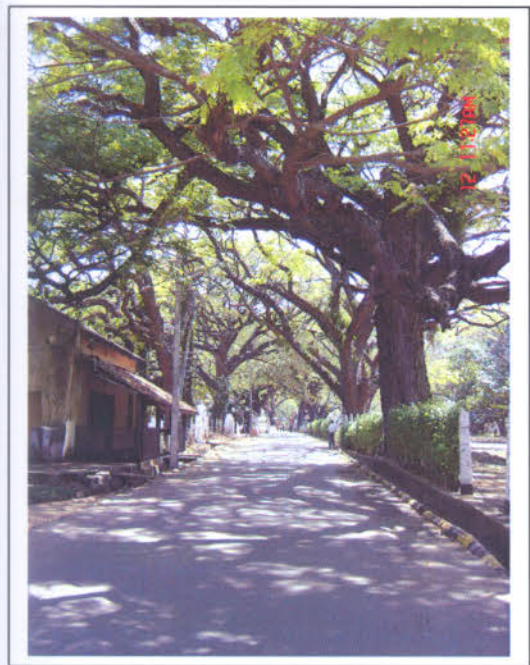


In the rear side of the gate way, there is a customary bell arch and below it showing the year 1676. **Fig: (47)**

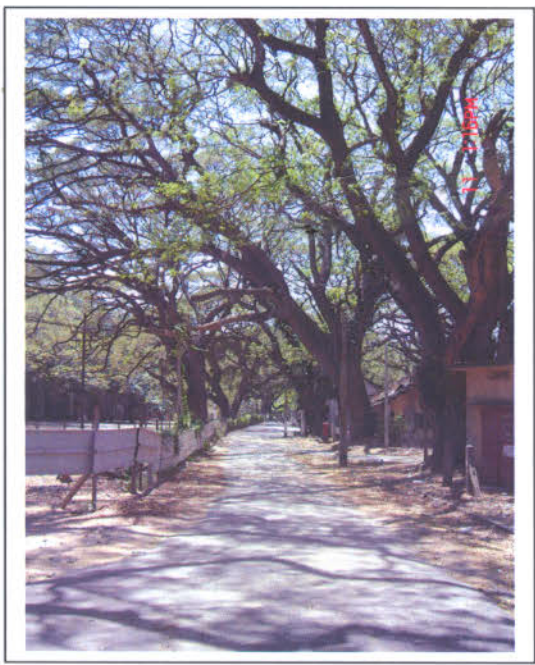


**Fig: (47)**  
Bell arch on rear of the gate way

To observe the important buildings in the Fort Frederick it is better to follow a sequential method. Starting from the gate way of the fort a building survey was done along the road up to the Sami rock and is displayed in figures as follows .



**Fig: (48)**  
The road inside the Fort Frederick



**Fig: (49)** Shady Road Running towards the rocky promontory “Sami Rock”.





**Fig:(50)** Rooms in the fort Frederick Bastions of the fort which were used for military Purposes in dilapidated condition.



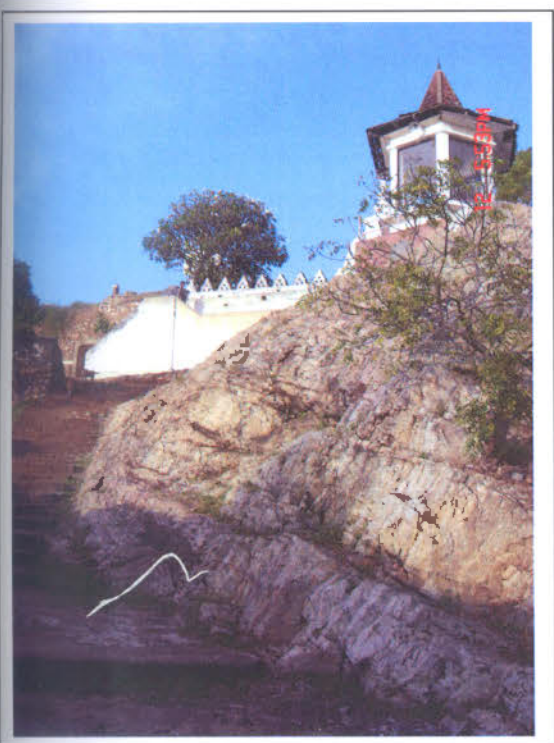
**Fig: (51)**

Old Building which belongs to colonial period, now using for soldiers mess.



**Fig: (52)**

The Buddhist Temple at the Fort Frederick. Which is located at the place of ancient "Gokanna Temple"



**Fig: (53)**

A closer view of the  
Buddhist Temple.



**Fig: (54)**

Renovated Building used for  
military Office.



**Fig: (55)**

Old Building Used for military  
purposes, Now dilapidated.





**Fig: (56)**  
Old Colonial Building ,Now  
occupied by the military officers.



**Fig: (57)**  
Old Colonial Building ,  
Now occupied by the military  
Officers.



**Fig: (58)**  
Details of the column in the  
above Building.





**Fig: (59)** Wellington House, The residence of Colonel Wellesley.

Here is another colonial chieftains residence, with a rampart parapet running along the rear.

Wellington House, where Duke Wellesly stayed. He was sent there to plan the invasion of French Mauritius.



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## Wellington House Garden



**Fig: (60 )**

Garden at the edge of the sea waters. And Enkhuizen Bastion at the rear, providing security.



**Fig: (61)**  
Wellington Garden at present used by the military officers of the Fort Frederick.



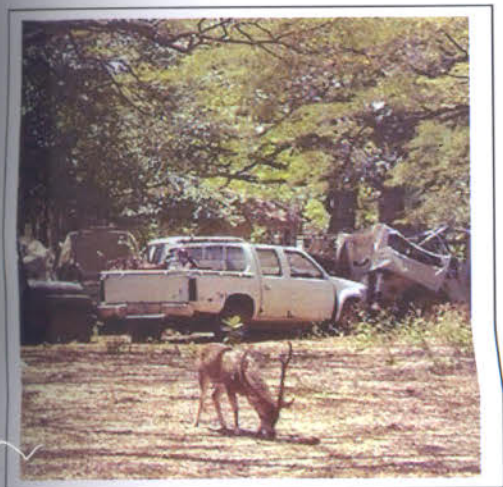
**Fig: (62)**  
Eastern sea through the Wellington Garden



**Fig: (63 )**  
Present day parking for Wellington House, left to the tree the Enkhuizen Bastion.



## Open spaces at the Fort Frederick



**Fig: (64)**

Greenery which provides shades to the open spaces of the Fort Frederick. Deer in the open spaces which provides the liveliness.



**Fig: (65)**

Open spaces which are not maintained.

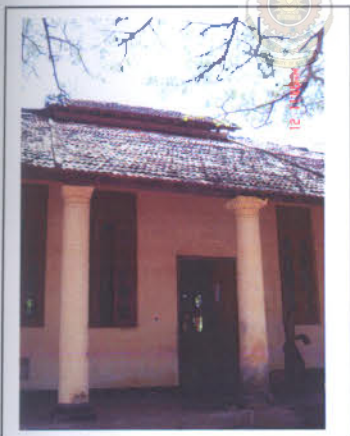


## Old Hospital

This building is selected for the case study of this study and more details will be given later chapter.



**Fig: (66)** A long hospital building having two middle court yards.



**Fig: (67)**  
Special ventilation detail at  
the same hospital building.



**Fig: (68)** Separate building  
which catered hospital  
purposes now it is occupied  
by the army.

## Administrative buildings at Fort Fredrick



**Fig: (69)** Government Agents Office.



**Fig: (70)**  
District Ministry Building,  
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.



**Fig: (71)** An Alien new building , in front of G.A.'s Office within the Administrative Centre.





**Fig: (72)**

A Small Burial Ground of Fort Frederick, an Engineer who had died when constructing Trincomalee- Colombo Road, was buried here, other important personnel's grave stones also located here.



**Fig: (73)** Logos of Grave Stones







**Fig: (74)**

Gun emplacement for Eastern sea and Dutch bay

This gun emplacement located on two underground rooms which used for ammunition stores or some other.



**Fig:(75)**

This is one of few vents, which provide ventilation and light for underground rooms.



**Fig:(76)**

The Clay tube of the vent which rundown to the underground room.



**Fig:(77)** A Residential building which belongs to British period.

Formally its roof is covered with tiles but now it is covered with asbestos sheets.

It is now called “Chummery” and at present some government officers reside here. The compiler of the dissertation resided for few days to collect facts and information for this study.



**Fig:(78)**

Another colonial residential building situated in front of the above said chummery.

Formally it's roof was covered with tiles, now it is covered with asbestos sheets. It has a verandah with trelliswork.



**Fig:(79)**

Trincomalee District elections office at Fort Frederick.

It is obvious that this is a colonial period building, which is having a front verandah adorned with columns. But now, the verandah is covered with windows and short walls and an added door.

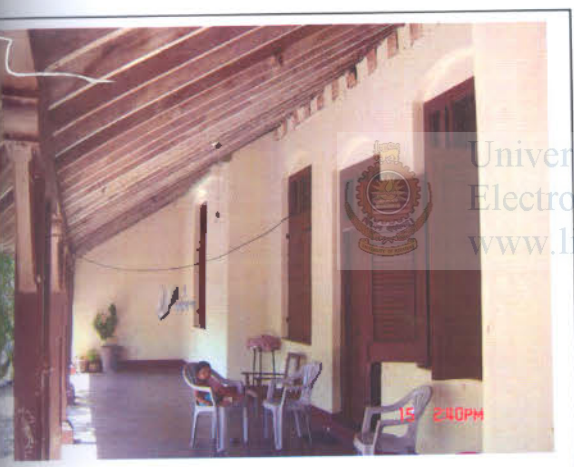




**Fig:(80)**

This colonial period residential building located closed to the present-day elections office.

It's now also used as government quarters. Special kind of timber columns can be seen in this verandah.



**Fig :(81)**

The above said verandah in another angle.



**Fig:( 82)**

Former Army barracks of Fort Frederick. At present it's used as government quarters some residential units changed with glass and Aluminum by residents.





**Fig:(83)**

Another Army barracks building at the same line.

This building's roof can be seen in the above **fig:(82)**

Compiler had an opportunity to reside in these quarters in 1999, but due to lack of common amenities it was abandoned.



**Fig:(84)**

This building renovated in 2005 by Department of Archaeology. The renovation finished as a church.



**Fig:(85 )**

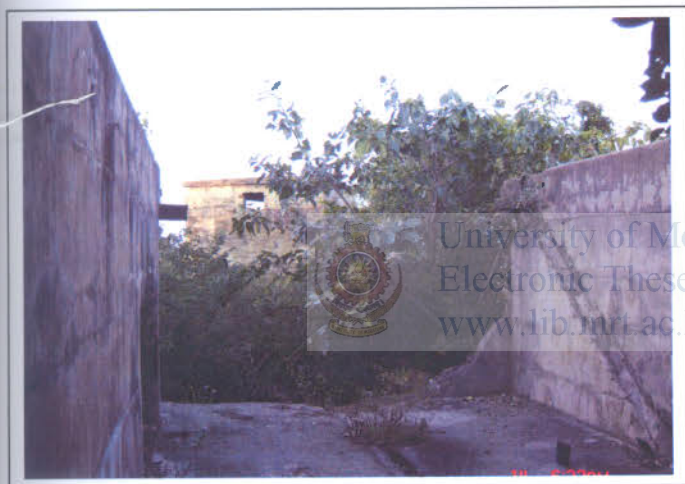
A large cannon Enplacement at Fort Frederick.

Compare it's massiveness with the human figure.



**Fig :(86)**

Former artillery barracks, now they are using as government quarters.



**Fig:(87)**

The largest Gun-Emplacement in the highest elevation in the Fort Frederick.



**Fig :(88)**

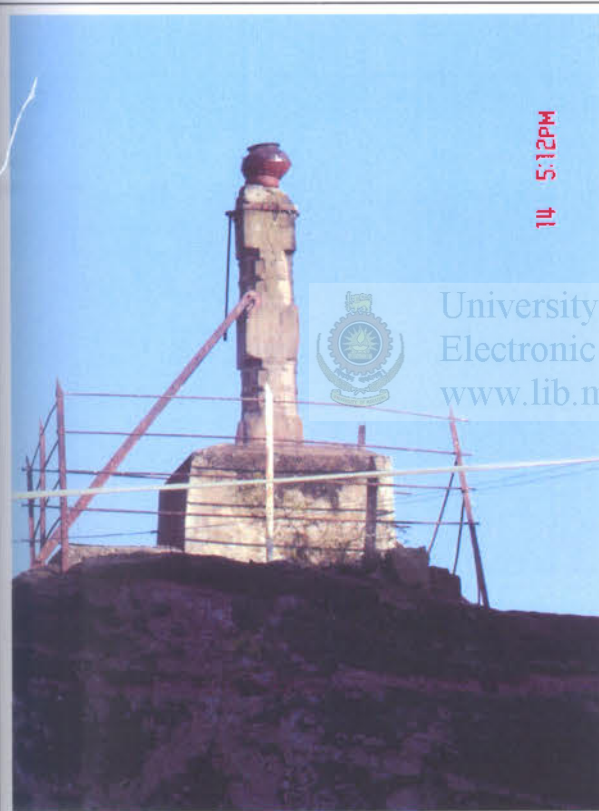
British period security point located in the highest elevation of pagoda Hill in the Fort Frederick.





**Fig:(89)**

Telecommunication towers located in the highest point of the Fort Frederick.



**Fig:(90)**

Carved stone pillar which belongs to "Pallawa Tradition" on the rock summit of Konezer Kovil.



**Fig:(91)**

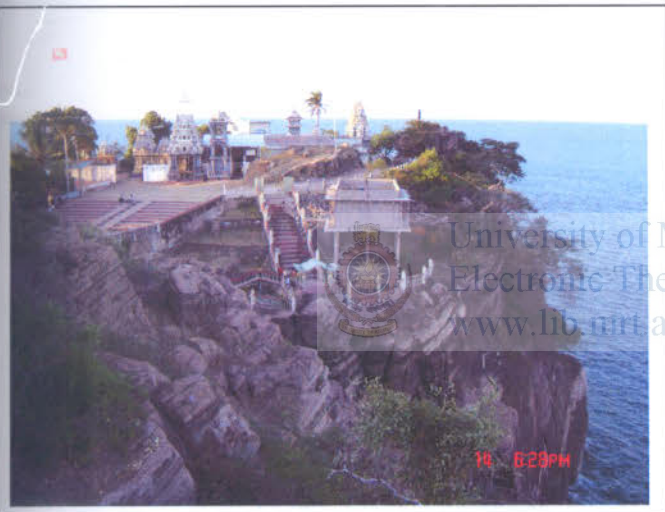
Koneswaram Kovil at Fort Frederick







**Fig:(92)**  
Closer view of the  
Koneswaram Kovil.



**Fig:(93)**  
Koneswaram Kovil located in  
a rocky promontory called  
"Sami Rock"



**Fig:(94)**  
So called unsuitable construction, as per  
the architectural point of view, and  
unauthorized construction despite the  
antiquities ordinance.



**Fig:(95)**

The fisherman smash coconut upon this rock before they go out fishing



**Fig:(96)**

The devotees make vows for their day today life in this precipitous spot.



**Fig:(97)**

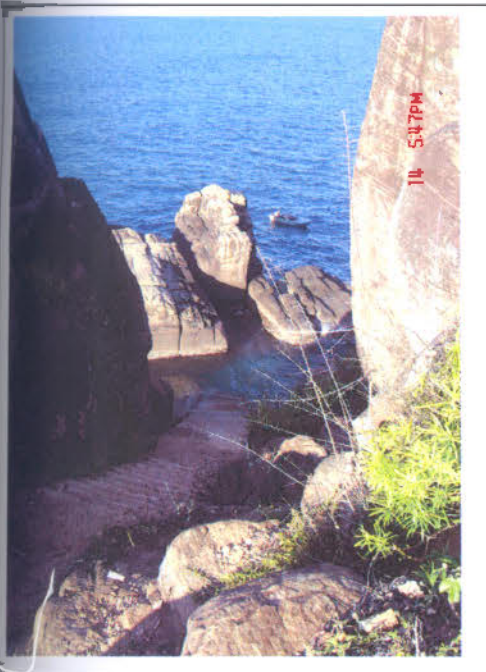
Fishing boats too come to smash coconuts



**Fig:(98)**

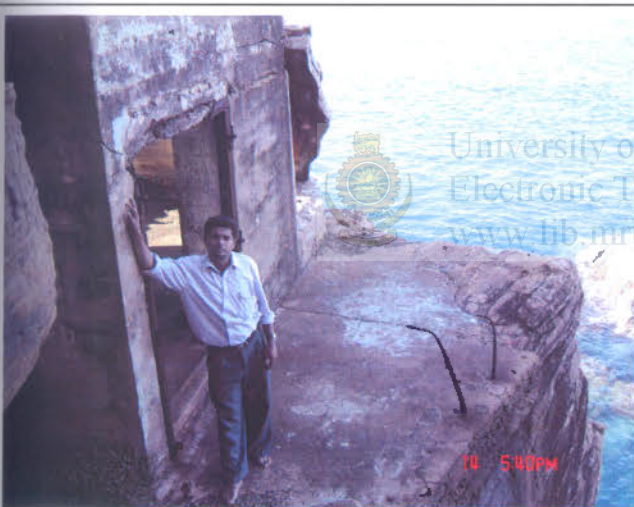
Childless mothers making vows, hanging small cradles above the Koneswaram precipice.





**Fig:(99)**

Steps running down to the last British gun point at the end of the Sami Rock precipice. The fishing boat is coming to smash coconuts.



**Fig:(100)**

The compiler at the last British gun point.



**Fig:(101)**

Uncommon shaped rocks situated at the end of Sami Rock precipice. The faraway white patch is a fishing boat.



### 3.1.2. Fort Ostenburg

The second fort of Trincomalee is Ostenburg, which was constructed by the Dutch. Small peninsula, guarding the entrance into the Trincomalee Bay.

It is on a high elevation commanding the entrance to the inner harbour **map:(3)** - (Trincomalee District map) and **fig:(104) (Pg.70)** only vestiges remain of the Ostenburg, which had strong batteries of Gunmen.

Both Forts despite their strong fortifications surrendered in 1795 to the British from the Dutch after only minimal resistance by 1803, Trincomalee housed new barracks for both the officers and troops, Fort Frederick had 72 guns and fort Ostenburg had 50 and was considered to be in a formidable state of defense. By 1815, a small dockyard had been started and some sort of defense remained until 1905 when it was mostly dismantled in 1923, the dockyard was reopened and work commenced on its conversion in to a major Royal Naval base. It's defenses are still to be seen and now used by the Sri Lankan Navy.

In 1716 A.D. 45 years of the British Occupation Governor Becker describes the fort in his Memoir, "This Ostenburg, is a small stone fortress, on a hill east of the entrance to the inner bay, and serves to Protect the bay". He also refers to a "*water pas*" (fortified dam or mole) on the west of the entrance which he considered as to be strengthened

(1)

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(1) Brohier, R.L. (1978) Link between Sri Lanka and the Netherlands,

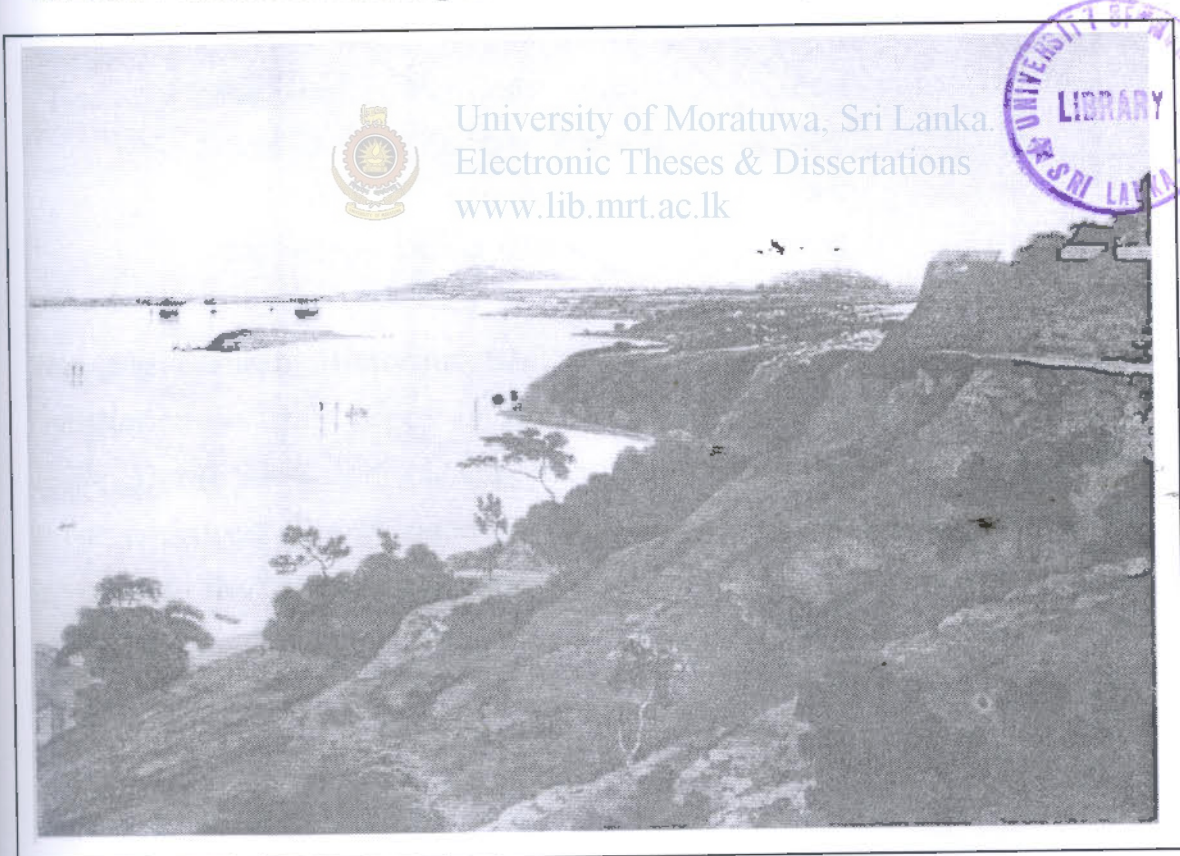


**Source:** Nelson, W.A.  
(1984) *The Dutch Forts of Sri Lanka*



the rock – top of the fort above them. The approach to it and the only direction for attack – was along a high, narrow peninsula, across which a ditch had been cut in front of the fort.

The short land in front was defended by a strong battery work, with a ditch in front of it. Behind this lay a tall barracks and other building. The remainder of the upper fort was long and narrow, with ramparts running back to gun batteries over looking the restricted entrance channel to the wide inner harbour. In the long south – eastern rampart were postern gates, with paths leading down the steep hill side to a landing place and defended positions on Koddiyar Bay. On the less steep inner harbour side were water edge barracks and the strong batteries”. “Ostenburg measured, say 300 feet across its land front on the top of the ridge and the hill- top ramparts ran back some 450 feet”. This is a Painting made in above 1800 by a British artist.



**Fig:(103)** A painting of Fort Ostenburg, In 1800 A.D. (In the top right shows the “Fort Ostenburg”)

**Source :** Nelson, W.A. (1984), The Dutch Forts of Sri Lanka



The corner of the rear of Ostenburg Fort and of the high building within the ramparts seem to match the plan. The painting shows the start of the water-edge barracks on the extreme left but none of the shore – line defense they served. It does however, show the greater part of the inner harbour on the left, the flat spread of the town along the rear and the sharp break-out of Fort Frederick rising up beyond that.

The fort Ostenburg used as a “Main Control base” of Trincomalee bay by the Dutch and the English. There is a belief that, A fort was constructed by the king Rajasingha II in “ Ostenburg Point” to chase out the Portuguese from the Trincomalee Harbour. (1)

A Kandyan Period folklore witnesses to the above incident.

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The Sri Lankan Historian S. Devendra Pointed out that the fort mentioned in this poem is the fort that constructed by the king Rajasinha II. As Caldera H.C.L. mentioned, later the Portuguese might have captured it and used for the defense activities for the ships arriving to the Trincomalee harbour.

(1) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003) “Trikunamala Varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama”: M.A. Thesis : University of Sri Jayawardenapura.



*24-Enclosure of letters from Sir J. D. Brown  
of 30th Nov 1842. No 42. 10 m. 100.*

**Fig (104) FORT OSTENBURG**  
**Source:-British Museum**



## 3.2. Trincomalee Ports and Harbour

### 3.2.1. Ancient Ports

The present Harbour, which is now called "Inner harbour" of Trincomalee has been using from 1<sup>st</sup> half of 17<sup>th</sup> century. But from very early times Asian countries like Sri Lanka and India used, "bays of shallow water" to land their ships or sea vessels. According to the famous Historian Neville Chittick's papers (1) reveal that "a sandy coastal area which would enable landing of ships or sea vessels on a sandy ground within a Sea cove is called" a "Port".

The author of "Mahawamsa" called the Trincomalee bay as "Gokan Muhunda" (Gokan Sea) Among the number of indents of Trincomalee bay, the largest is the "Kottasara Bay, presently it is called as Kottiar Bay. **Map : (2),(Pg.27)**

The condition of the Topography of the costal lines is the major factor to build ancient ports.

The existence of the ports depends on the existence of their Kingdoms of olden days. when changing the Kingdoms, locations of the ports may change. These ancient ports greatly helped exports and imports of those kingdoms.

---

(1) Chittick, Neville (1974), East Africa and Orient Ports and Trade before the arrival of the Portuguese: Historical relations across the Indian ocean and The General History of Africa ports, paper presented to the meeting of port Louis Mauritius.



At present, only a half of the ancient port called “Gokanna” can be seen in Trincomalee, presently it is called as “North Bay harbour” or “Back Bay Harbour” **Annexure: (05)**. The other half of the ancient port could be seen as a sandy land (see satellite image) In Sinhala it is called “Muththuvali Mudu Bima” and in English it's called “large maidan” **Annexure: (05)** this open space can be seen in old maps attached in this dissertation **Annexure:(01)**. Naturally grown trees cannot be seen in this open space. At present the bus terminal **fig:(105)** and the Municipal Council **fig: (106)** situated with in this part of open space. Man Planted trees can be seen with in the above two premises. Any body could see crabs digging holes in this large open space.



**Fig : (105)** Trincomalee bus  
Terminal



**Fig : (106)** Trincomalee Urban  
Council

According to the facts available it is understood that, this is a sand filled area with sea waves. It is proved that this present esplanade (large maidan or Muththuwalli ground) is the half of former “Gokanna Harbour”(1) the other half is called “North bay” or “back bay” Sand filled Areas.

(1) Caldera, H.C.L.(2003), “Trikunamala Varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama”  
M.A.Thesis: University of Sri Jayawardenapura.-P. 25 & P. 120

### 3.2.2. Present Harbour

Trincomalee, during the periods of Sinhala Kings, was one of the Chief Trading Centres in Sri Lanka. In the wars of Parakramabahu-I (1153-1186AC) it is said, fleets with powerful naval forces were directed on many occasions to Ramanna and South India from Trincomalee. History provides sufficient evidence that from the very dawn of Sri Lanka's story, Trincomalee and the East, like Jaffna and the North, were areas thickly populated by Sinhalese.(1)

There were some "Arabic Gravestones" found at Ostenburg Area of the Trincomalee harbour.(2) From these grave stones, It is proved that there were some "Muslim marine villages" in "Nicholson's bay" and "Sandy bay" which were engaged in ship building.(3) As Mr.Caldera points out there were significant muslim activities happened at Ostenburg area. These activities are,

- Muslim Marine villages and ship repairing centres.
- Places where Muslim Gravestones were found.
- Muslim Graveyard

The map also shows a mosque called "Kalladiappa". Which is an important element.

"Navy House" situated in the present Navy base, also a early Islamic reminiscent(4). This building and the Muslim marine villages were related to other places such as ship repairing centers, Muslim grave yards, places where muslim grave stones were found and Kalladiappa Mosque were situated in a same land.

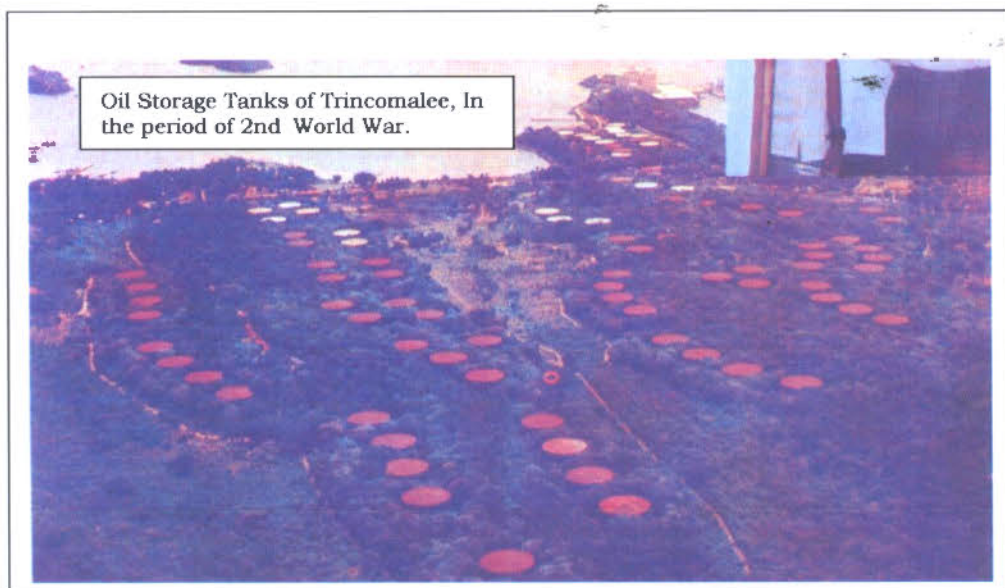
- 
- (1) Kannangara, E.T. (1984) Jaffna and the Sinhala Heritage, Lake house Colombo Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. P-35  
(2) Devendra, S, (1970) Arabick Gravestone from Trincomalee Dockyard, Royal Asiatic Soceity (Ceylon) Vol.XIV new series.  
(3) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003) "Trikunamala Varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama" M.A.thesis, University of Sri Jayawardenapura. P-33  
(4) I bid



**“Navy House” (Admiralty House) is a building which was influenced by Islamic, Dutch and English Architectural characters ( will be discussed in a following chapter).**

The Fort Fredrick and Fort Ostenburg were maintained as military bases that provide military forces for Defense with Indian subcontinent by the English in 1795. After that, the British navy handed over Fort Frederick and Ostenburg to the British Army in 1910 AD and Established a Navy base, at Ostenburg a coastal line at Trincomalee bay. This naval base become a large Army Camp, due to the expansion of battalions kept attached to the Fort Frederick and Fort Osternburg. At the same time this Army Camp engaged in defense activities in East and coastlines consequently present Trincomalee harbour gained international status. As per the incident Analysis's First World War was a European weapon trial ground and an exhibition event to the world. To fulfill the above world Phenomenon, Trincomalee military base was centralized as a Navel Base where stores for Torpedoes in the South Asia. (1)

In 1927 British Admiralty offered a contract, building of 105 oil storage tanks in “Chinabay” and “Chinnavadi”, to a company called “Clayton” **fig: (106)**



**Fig: (106 )** Oil storage tanks of Trincomalee

**Source :** Kanchcheri : Trincomalee



In 1935 the British prepared Trincomalee Navy Base and the harbour for the second world war. Japanese airraids were the great challenge for the British. As a result of it, with the collapse of Singapore military base, British troops arrived to the Trincomalee "Navy Base". Thus military camps expanded beyond the Trincomalee harbour. Consequently it was established "one of the large weapon stores in Asia" called "Monkey Bridge" at Trincomalee. But, Japanese Army sunk 10 British war ships within the Indian Ocean in 1942 at the Second World War.

As per the war analysts comments the strategic importance of Trincomalee harbour collapsed, with this incident. But, second world war directly influenced for the Development of Trincomalee Naval Base and the harbour. After 1942, large number of Buildings were built in the navy camp of Trincomalee power houses, Radar controlling centers, dockyards, Hospitals Administrative Buildings, restaurants, cinema theatres and Luxury Houses were among them.

Most of the buildings named to commemorate the British Officers who took leadership to the reawakening of the Trincomalee Harbour. "Rainer Cottage", "Pillow house", "Drury Bungalow", "Pajet House" These buildings express British Colonial architecture (1). There were well-maintained playgrounds and carpeted roads.

### 3.3. OPEN SPACES OF TRINCOMALEE

Open spaces, are very essential in urban places. They are the healing places for crowded cities. Open spaces and urban spaces are well related issues in sound urban planning and urban designing. As well as terms that coming under urban space, "sustainable urban space" "urban realm" urban energy conservation" "urban hygiene" "Urban livability," urban visual pollution" are well connected with open spaces.

Though there are few small open spaces in the Trincomalee Commercial city centre, most of the commercial areas are very congested. But in other areas in Trincomalee there are places very rich in natural open spaces. There are three major open spaces in Trincomalee. They are "Large Maidan", Small Maidan" and "Dutch bay Beach".

#### 3.3.1. Large Maiden

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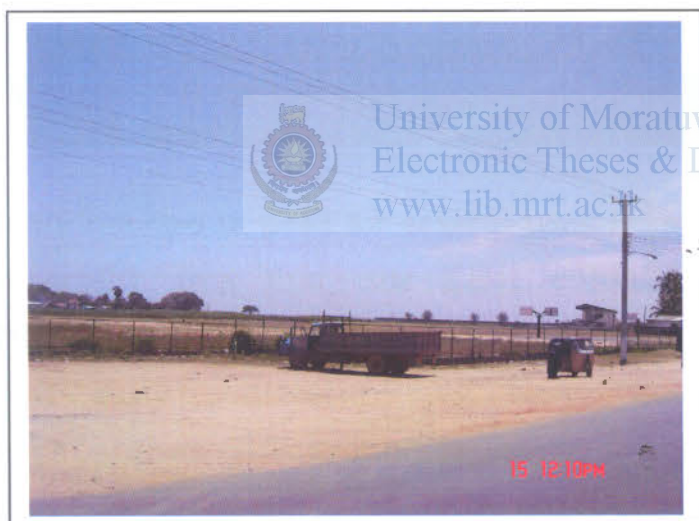
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This sandy ground is generally called "Muththuwali ground" by General Public of Trincomalee. "(the name Muththuwali is derived from Sinhala name Muthu wella)" A Mosque named "Muththuwali Appa" situated at a side in this ground. In the English period the ground is called "Large Maiden" (see satellite image in the appendix).

The total land extent at that time, including fort frederick, one hundred and forty-nine acres, two roods and thirty two perches. This open area is called "large maidan" was legally transferred to the frederick for their battle training in 1894. as mentioned early in sub chapters, fort frederick was used to accommodate armies which organized from other countries which conquered by british at that period. Some times fort frederick was not enough for these armies. So this large maidan was used to accommodate excess army troops. Some times they used this as a parade ground. Some times used as parking area for armoured tanks of british army.

It is almost a triangular shaped land. Present bus terminal is situated in the north corner. The Trincomalee clock tower is located in the center of the junction. It is called clock tower junction.

Trincomalee Urban Council is situated in the Southern corner of that land. "Mcheyzer stadium" situated next to the Trincomalee Urban Council. The elliptical shaped Mcheyzer ground can be seen in the "satellite image" of Trincomalee with in the triangle towards the Urban Council of Trincomalee. Fort Frederick and the Sangamiththa Pilgrim rest are situated in the East corner of the land called large maidan. At present school children, youth groups and others, use this open space for there recreational requirements. so, Presence of this open space, Still provide liveliness to the city.



**Fig: (107)** Large Maidan  
(Muththuwali ground)  
Trincomalee.  
(Mcheyzer Stadium  
at right far end)



**Fig :(108)**  
Large Maidan  
A closer view  
(Mcheyzer Stadium  
is visible here)



### 3.3.2. Small Maidan

At present it is called Ehamparam ground. (see the satellite image in the appendix) it is situated in the Dockyard road. **Annexure: (04 )** As per the many writers, earliest Urban settlements starts along this road. It is discussed in a sub chapter, “changing form of the Trincomalee City”.



**Fig: (109)** small maidan  
(now Ehamparam  
ground)

Small maidan is used for several uses from the colonial period . The important area that, the **First colonial Urban settlements in Trincomalee** is identified and mentioned in a previous sub chapter. That early settlement now have become a fairly congested neighborhood. This ground is located within in that neighborhood, thus it is the “open space” which caters recreational facilities.

This ground is used, Not only by the general public but also for the military purposes. As per the British records, once upon a time, this was their “rifle green” at the same time they used it for their “Parade Ground”, “Drill Ground”.

At the moment neighboring schools take their maximum benefit from this ground. Sports clubs use it as foot ball ground and athletic ground. Neighbors of the ground use it as their amusement park.

### 3.3.3. Dutch bay Beach

This open space comprises of Beach ground and the beach. It looks like a replica of Galle face ground in Colombo, it is very attractive in the morning, noon, after noon, evening and in the night. This beach facing to the Dutch Bay. As previously explained, this is the bay that the Dutch Anchored ships to capture the Portuguese fort "Eleesa" (now Fort Frederick) prior to that period, this beach is a part of Historical "Gokanna Port" as per the Great Chronicles Mahawamsa and Chulawamsa.

This beach and the ground stretch towards north and south. In the northern end of it is the elegant Fort Frederick. **Fig:(110)** In the south end of it is the fascinating Government Agent's Bungalow, **fig:(111)** which is on the Historic Dutch point. In the west, the road running towards Fort Frederick. **Fig: (112)** Large Maidan looks like a Savannaha in a jungle. Very old Naval commissioners bungalow situated near by reminds the colonial past. Fishing boats, troller boats, military boats, and cargo ships can be seen in the eastern sea from this beach.



**Fig: (110)** Fort Frederick at the north end of the Dutch bay beach

Dutch point



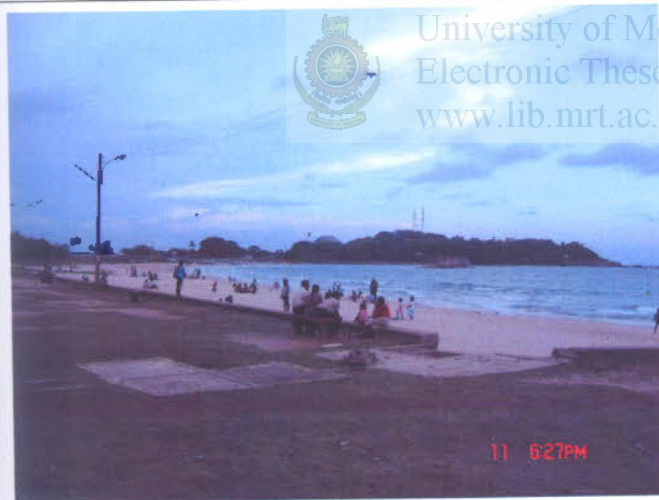
**Fig: (111)** Government Agent's Bungalow which is situated on the Dutch point can be seen far end at the sea.





**Fig: (112)** Fort Frederick road at the west side of the Dutch bay beach.

In some seasons of the year some boats are fishing at the dawn and in the nights, using lights. In a such moment lights of boats appears as, stars in a clear night sky. Natives and the tourists are enjoying this historic beach park daily. Special crowds come at week ends. Untouchable extra ordinary Trincomalee feeling can be experienced from this wonderful beach park.



**Fig: (113)** Dutch bay beach and the ground in the



**Fig: (114)** Dutch bay beach in the evening.





**Fig: (115 )**Dutch bay beach and the ground in the noon.



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### 3.4 Identified City Centres

When studying the activities of the Trincomalee City, There are Three major activities. These activities had separately grown as centers. Such as, Commercial center, Residential center and the Administrative and Security center. Those activity centers are located as in a coners of a Triangle(Observe the **Annexure: (04)** In the appendix.) That Triangle is very famous in “Trincomalee Esplanade” (in this study previously we called it “ Large•Maidan”). If we see the satellite image and the old map which in the **Annexure: (01)**, density of the land used are high in those centers, which were located in the 3 points of the said Triangular Esplanade. Now let us discuss the 3 centres.

#### 3.4.1. Commercial Centre

Considering the **Annexure: (04)** commercial center is situated in the North West corner of the triangle which explained earlier as “ large maidan”. Core area of the commercial center mainly comprises with the following ; Fish Market, Bus Terminal , Daily Market, Fuel Station, Starting point of Dockyard road, Konesar Road, North Coast Street (Ehamparam street) Central road and Main Street. The place which meets the above road is the junction. The clock tower is situated at the middle of the junction. **Annexure: (05)**



**Fig: (116)** Bus Terminal at Trincomalee





**Fig: (117)**Trincomalee Clock Tower (Main land mark of the commercial center of Trincomalee)

Considering historical and Architectural Buildings in this Commercial City center, a building, which has colonial period Architecture can be seen next to the clock tower, the place where, North Coast Street and Central Road meets. For a long period it functioned as a Rest House of the City. Now a days also this old Rest House is functioning as a Rest House.



**Fig: (118)** Old Rest House , next to the Trincomalee Clock Tower.(It is an old colonial building, which cater to the character of Trincomalee Commercial Centre)





Various kind of business matters occurred in this center. The main Business is wholesale fish business. Fish collecting centers are located in the "Back Bay Shore" (see the satellite image, in the appendix) we can observe the fish market and the fish collecting centers in the back bay shore, westward to the Fort Frederick.

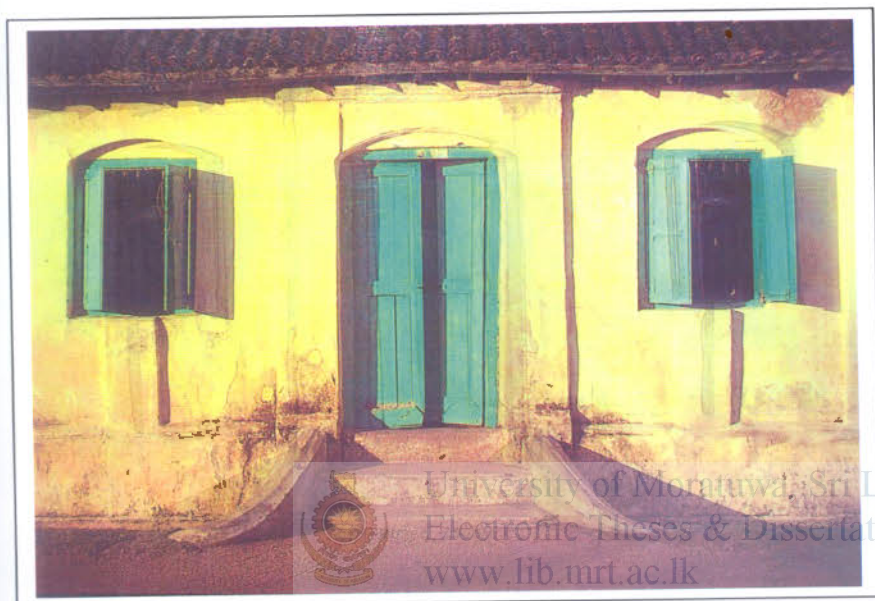
Daily market, specially crowded in week ends. Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims come from distant places to this market. Their cultures meets together in this place. Social values, language, male female dresses like cultural things are crossing in this market. It is a extraordinary cultural place. ***It is a big issue for another dissertation study.***

#### **3.4.2. Residential Centre**

These Residential Centre's recorded History go back to 1770 A.D., It is discussed in a previous sub chapter, "Changing form of the City." The Dutch map prepared in 1770, shows the First settlements of Trincomalee City. **Map: (1),(Pg.25)** The second highest density of land use, prevail in the south corner of the said triangle. Another point of view is this residential center is situated between the Fort Frederick and Fort Ostenburg. These two forts greatly influenced to locate this Residential center. Dockyard Road link this Residential center with the commercial center.

As per the city guide map **Annexure: (04)** Dockyard Road, Dyke Road, Hospital Lane, Yard Approach Road , Fathima Road, Custom Road, Post Office Road, Vanniya Road, and Green Road are the roads which situated with in the **identified residential center**. Compiler of this dissertation took some photographs of Some Houses of this roads.

Some Houses are in good condition. Some are in deteriorative condition. Some houses are prevailing from colonial period, when analyzing the character of these houses, old houses are greatly influenced by the colonial period. **(Observe photographs below and end of chapter Two) compiler's idea is another area of research identified here that this issue is sufficient for another dissertation as "Old Houses of Trincomalee or like wise.**



**Fig: (119 )** Old House at Dyke Street  
Trincomalle



**Fig: (120)** Shop House at By lane of  
Trincomalee





**Fig: (121)** Old House at Identified residential zone at Trincomalle



**Fig: (122)** Recently constructed House at



**Fig: (123)** House at Trincomalee Hindu characteristics can be





**Fig: (124)**

Old House at Trincomalee



**Fig: (125)**

Closer view of the same  
House



**Fig:(126)**

Front verandah of the same  
House

### 3.4.3. Administrative and Security Centre

It is mentioned previously these three centers located in a triangle. The triangle is identified as the "large maidan" of Trincomalee. Administrative and security center is situated in the eastern corner of the Triangle.

When analyzing the above said Trincomalee **Annexure: (4&1)** the lowest land use density can be identified within the Fort Frederick which identified as Administrative and the security zone. The reason is lack of space at Fort Frederick . It is boundaries are well defined from long ago. It cannot expand because ramparts of fort are at the edge of the sea.

Government Administrative bodies like , Government Agent's office, Land Registrar Office, Meteorological Office, Election Office, Urban Development Authority, Grama Sevaka Office, etc., are situated in the fort. Sri Lankan Army also resided here for the security of the Trincomalee City. Residencies of past higher rankers of British . Army such as "Wellington House" situated in the Fort Frederick .Now they are used for Sri Lanka high rankers. In 1800, Colonel Arthur Wellesly, later the Duke of Wellington, stayed Fort in the quarters of Fort Frederick which is now called as Wellington House .

Meanwhile N.G.O's Office engaged in social services government and nongovernmental to Tsunami Relief Offices also located here. Some government offices have brought out of the fort due to the lack of space.



**Fig: (127) G.A.'s Office**



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## **CHAPTER FOUR**

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**Examination of Architectural Heritage of Trincomalee and their Prevalent condition; and constraints in preservation.**

**Case studies.**



This chapter is to identify the resources, Problems and Potentials of the building in the Built Environment in a Selected Area of Trincomalee. Selected 5 numbers of important buildings will be taken for the case study. These buildings speaks of the historical past of the Trincomalee City. They have become important elements in the architectural fabric of the city.

Each building will be discussed under sub headings as given below.

- History of the Building,
- History of the conservation of the Building,
- Probable potentials of the building,
- Impacts from existing heritage Protection Acts and conservation approaches on the building,

The sub heading "Probable potentials of the building" will be elaborated with the SWOT Analysis. This is to be summarized in a table.



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## **4.1. ADMIRALTY HOUSE**

### **4.1.1. History of the building**

Admiralty House, named by British in 1810, it was also known as "Navy House" is situated with in the Navy Base, which is called Ostenburg area of Trincomalee. **Annexure: (1)** At a time this Navy Base was the British Naval Head Quarters for East Indian fleet. (1)

The under mentioned Account on Admiralty House has been Quoted from CEYLON TODAY, a journal, published by the Ceylon Government information Department in November 1957.

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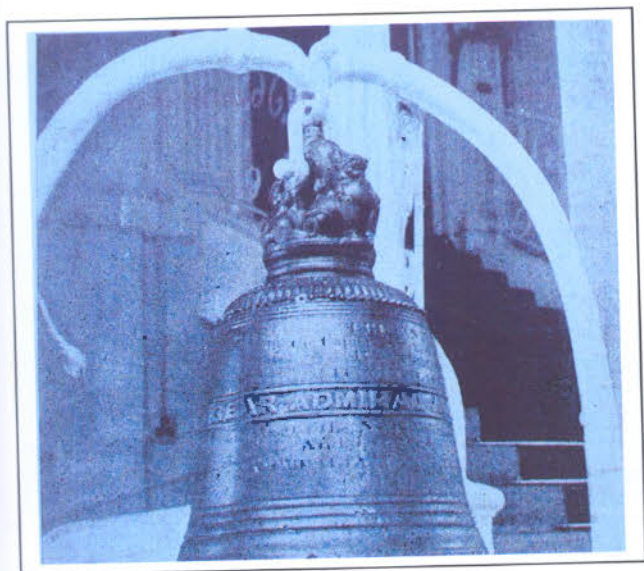
(1) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003) "Trikunamala Varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama" M.A. Thesis, Dept. of History and Archaeology: University of Sri J.pura, P. 71

"Admiral's House originally taken on rent on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1810, as a residence for the Admiral of the India Squadron. The commander-in-chief of the Naval Squadron at Trincomalee then was Rear- Admiral W.O. B. Drury, Governor of Ceylon was Sri Thomas Maitland.

The house was then the property of a Captain Robson who had bought it at a 'sale of execution' against a Mr. Cadell, Civil Servant.

In March 1812, on the advice of Sir Samuel Hood, It was decided to have a large Naval Base established at Trincomalee, Contrary to an earlier Suggestion that the Base should be contracted rather than expanded. The Plan matured in September at that year, and Hood was the first Admiral to go into residence in Admiral's House.

There is a note in the Visitor's Book in Admiral's House that in 1870-72 Admiral Cockburn 'drove a four-in-hand'. The lowest left-hand baluster of the great entrance stairway suspends a bell, bearing the legend that it was captured in the siege of Rangoon in 1852 and Presented by Admiral Austen, was brother to Jane Austen, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century English novelist".

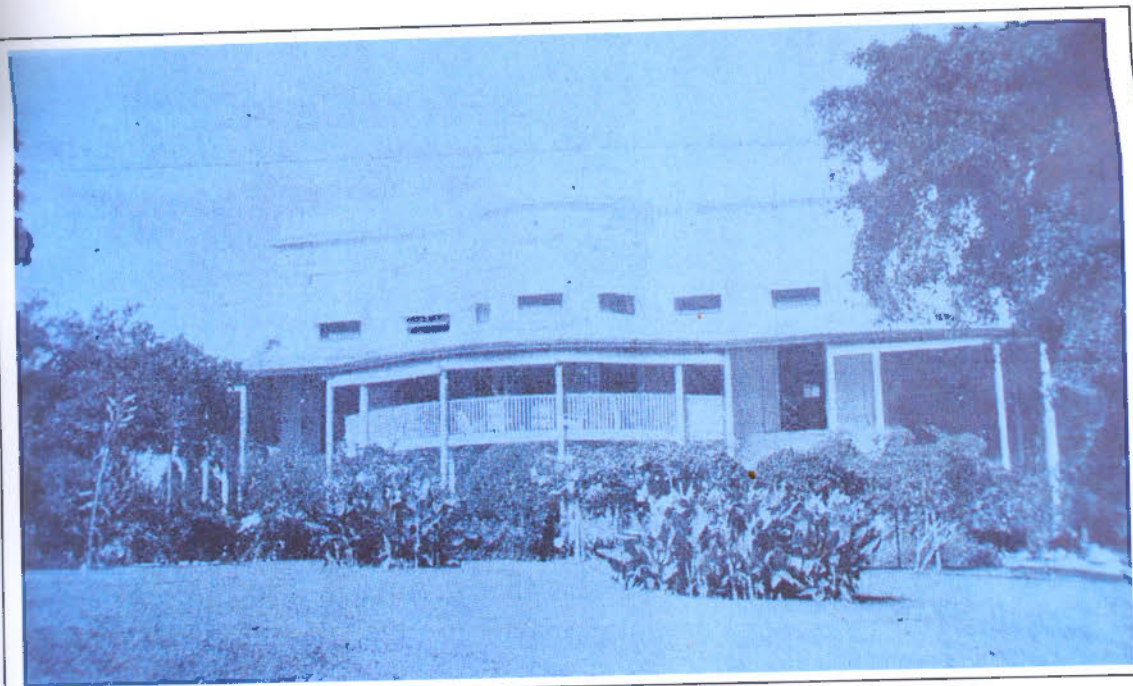


**Fig: (128)**

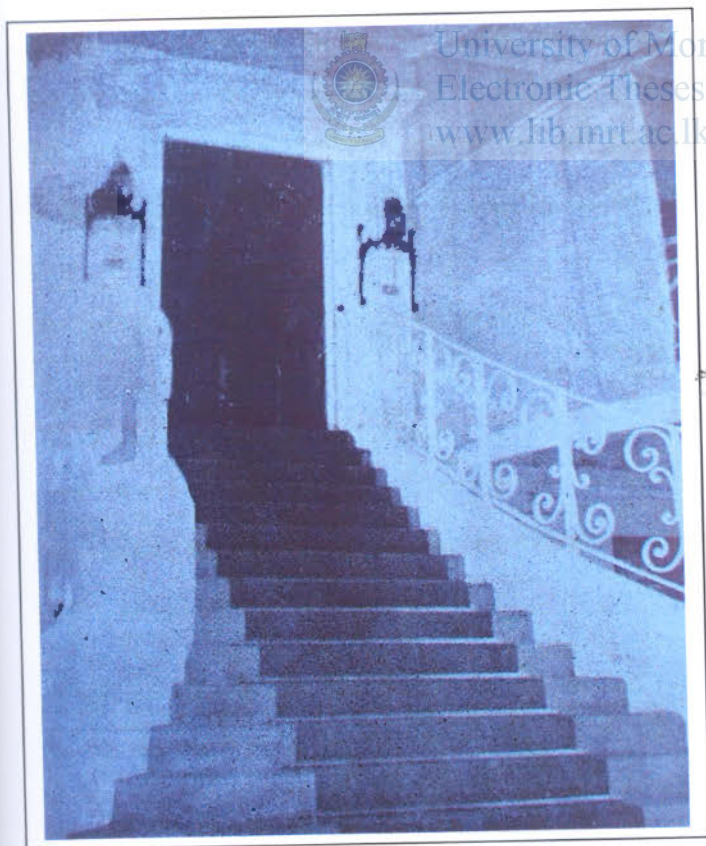
The bell, Captured in the siege of Rangoon in 1852, and brought to Admiral's House by Admiral Austen, brother of Jane Austen.

**Source:** CEYLON TODAY a Journal November, 1957  
Pub; by Dept. of Government Information





**Fig: (129 )** Admiralty House Southern Side, overlooking lawns and garden.  
**Source:** CEYLON TODAY a Journal November 1957, Pub; by Dept. of Government Information



**Fig: (130)** Admiralty House, ground floor, main entrance.  
 Note the carpeted stair way.

**Source:** CEYLON TODAY a Journal November 1957, Pub:  
 by Dept. of Government Information.





**Fig: (131)** Entrance to Admiralty House

**Source:** CEYLON TODAY a Journal November 1957, Pub; by Dept. of Government Information

"In October 1810, the decision was taken in London to break up the naval establishment at Madras and transfer it to Trincomalee. The magnitude of the work intended was reflected in the navy estimates. The buildings were to cost over 45,000 British Pounds. Besides the huge sums to be expended on residencies for the commander-in-chief, the commissioner, the officers and workmen of the dockyard, a hospital and a victualling depot."(1)

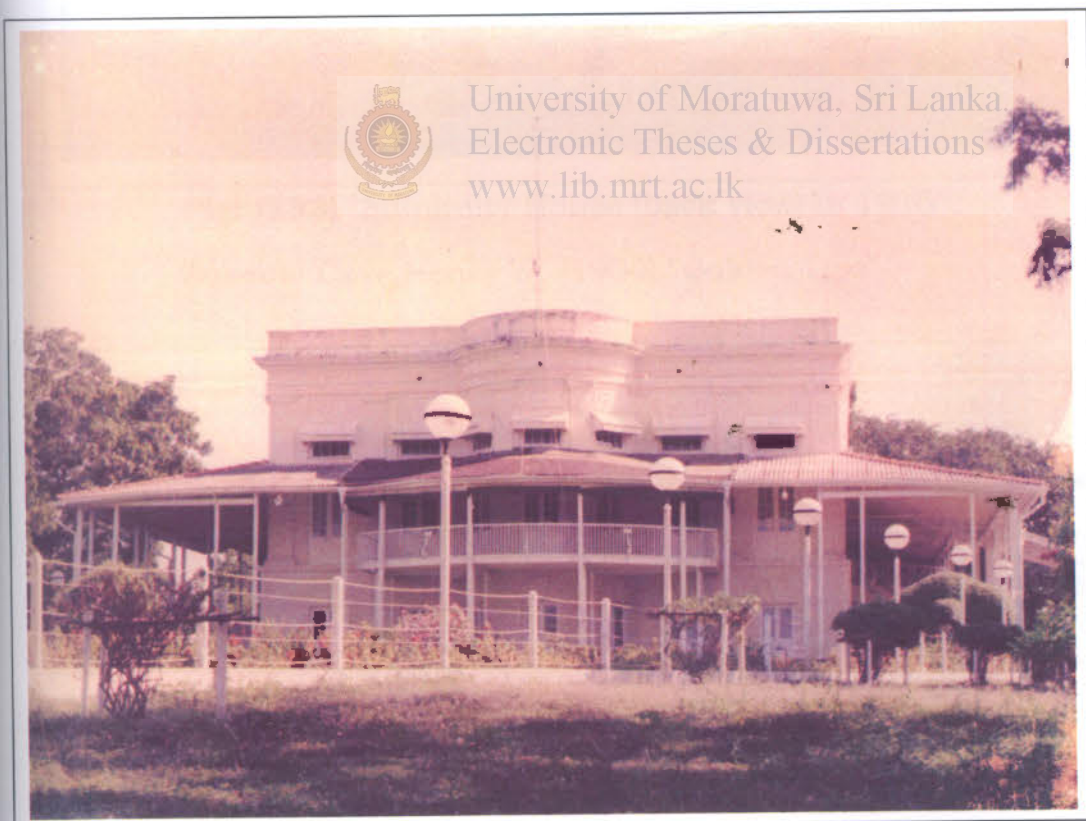
"The Plans for these buildings are reminiscent of the present Naval dockyards in England. They make it clear beyond all doubts that the intention was to create a first-class Naval base on similar lines to that were later built in Malta."(2)

(1) Colgate, H.A. (1964), "the Royal Navy and Trincomalee. The History of their connection, C.1750-1958" THE CEYLON JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES, VOL. 7, ISSUE 01, P. 9.

(2) Ibid

Mr. Caldera explained in his Thesis that if we carefully see the carvings and Decorations of Door and Window Frames, some Islamic Architectural Characteristics can be found. And there is a belief among Muslim Priests in Trincomalee that the Islamic Emblem the "Quarter moon and the Star" which was Marked on a wall of this Navy House, have been removed by Vise Admiral Samuel Hood (Pioneer of making Trincomalee Navy harbour) in 1811, when this building was preparing for the Head Quarters of the Navy in Indian Ocean.

Also he states that, this Navy House is not a building which totally comes under colonial period. Muslims, Portuguese, Dutch and English have renovated it time to time as required.



**Fig: (132)** Admiralty House at Navy Base, Trincomalee, in 1980's

**Source:** Sri Lanka Exservicement's association, Bristol street, Colombo.

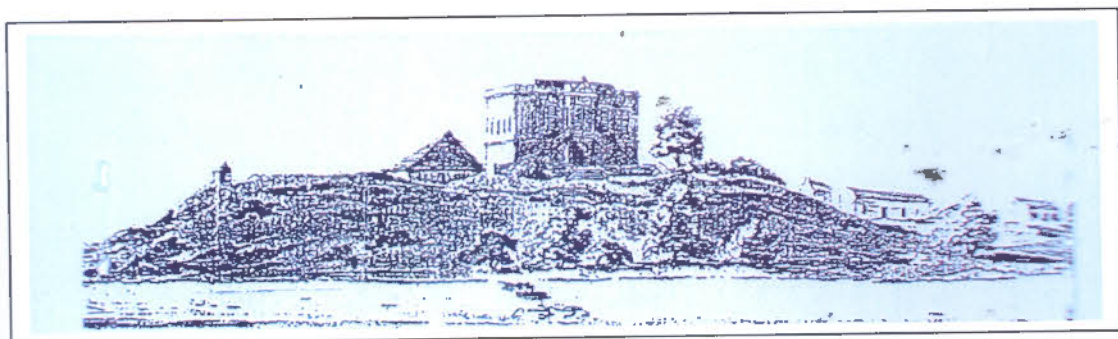


As shown in the **fig: (134)** the box type part except the verandah which is right round was a initially Arab traders period work. Thus this box part belongs to Pre Colonial Period. Sources points out that this buildings may originally constructed by Arabian Traders. But that original box type part can be seen from the back view of Admiralty House **fig: (133)**.



**Fig: (133)** Admiralty House (back view) in 1916

**Source:** Cave, Henry W. (1900) "Golden Tips".



**Fig : (134)** Admiralty House in 1827

**Source:** British Museum, provided by Mr. Caldera.

As mentioned earlier Islamic Architectural characteristics can be found with in this building. Lime stones were used for the walls of this building and walls are considerably wide comparing with other buildings, these walls are still in existence.



The above said stone inscriptions are found in the premises of Engineering Department of Navy base. And as said earlier a Muslim chief's name "Badroo De Deen Husain" may have a connection with this Admiralty House.


In Architectural point of view, it has Evolved Architectural characters of Islamic, Dutch and English.



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#### 4.1.2. History of Conservation of the Building

According to a historical analysis of Trincomalee Harbour area, the admiralty House has been transformed from time to time. Arabian Muslim shipwright's were the pioneer builders.<sup>(1)</sup> But British architectural work greatly influenced to the present day appearance of the building. The outer Verandah is a later extension to the building. This Verandah, cannot be seen "in this admiralty House in illustration in 1827." It must be a later addition. Consequently the front facia wall with decorative mouldings of façade of the building is a later addition by the British. Observing the back View of Admiralty House **Fig: (133)** there is a box can be seen above the asbestos roof. This "box type" part extends towards the ground, eventually it is finished as a building. Later additions and alterations done, around above said Preliminary building by the colonial nations. It is the original Arabian Traders building, According to Mr. Caldera's Explanation.

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Under mentioned quotation was taken from an article which was prepared in 1980 by "Naval Historical Branch".

"Between 1817 and 1822 Admiralty House itself was apparently rebuilt by a series of alterations which entirely changed the original character to the extent that only the old foundations remained. Tradition asserted that the house had been redesigned by a Master Shipwright, for a rounded verandah, known as the "Stern walk", opened on the west side from the drawing room, and the central area, used until after the second world war as the dining room, was like that of a Sailing warship's ward room, with the Principal bed rooms opening from it.

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(1) Caldera, H.C.L. (2003), "Trikunamala Varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama" M.A. Thesis, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, P 33

The Verandahs on the east and south side and the stair way on the north were apparently added later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, by the late 1860s, in the case of the east verandah.”

The above quotation express that the, renovation and alteration had been done in Admiralty House. In the other hand it is considered as conservation.

The under mentioned account on repairing of the Admiralty House quoted from an article of the prepared by the Sri Lanka Navy.

The Admiralty House was completely redecorated and revised in 1952 with a concrete roof concealed by a false interior ceiling when vice Admiral H. W. Biggs arrived in July 1957 he was aware that his tenure as Commander in chief was to be short, as such there was little improvements done.



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### 4.1.3 Probable Potentials of

#### SWOT ANALYSIS

#### Strengths:

- **The Oldest Building in Trincomalee**
  - As per the recorded history – is the oldest building in Trincomalee (origin goes back to 16<sup>th</sup> century).
  - Transformed within 400 years.
  - Alterations and additions by Muslims, Portuguese, Dutch and English.
  - A great Monument in the history of Trincomalee.
- **Admiralty House in Safe.**
  - Exists safely (situated in the Navy Base).
  - Well maintained by Sri Lankan Navy.
- **Admiralty House, Historically and Sociologically Valuable Building.**
  - No records have found for such an old building which being used continuously by pre colonial Muslims and colonials such as Portuguese Dutch and English.
  - Very important building in sociological aspect. (has a chronological History).
  - Four different nations occupier this building (As a result of it multi National Architectural characters visible within this building.
- **Admiralty House, - it's Archaeological and Architectural importance for Academic Purposes.**
  - Important for Scholars on Archaeological, Architectural and other researches.
- **Admiralty House – a tourist attraction Monument.**
  - For the Preservation – can reuse as tourist attraction Monument
  - Can be a strong place of tourist attraction if included in the tourist map.

## the Admiralty House

YSIS



### Weaknesses :

**of access to the conservationists – it's location – war.**

**No access to the scholars –**

- History, importance not exposed to the out world.
- Other important buildings around historically valuable not exposed because of this.

**Development Authorities are responsible for infrastructure Development yet not included the naval base to the city Development plan. -the area is still in under developed condition.**

**Admiralty House is 400 years old yet not been declared as a historical Monument.**

- No under any conservation institution or Department.



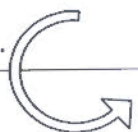
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Continued...



## **Opportunities :**

1

- As per the recorded History – oldest existing building in Trincomalee.
- Important Historical Monument that could be included in to the tourism Development plan.
- It's surrounding built environment is a resourceful are when conservationists researchers and scholars should engaged in research studies which would be supportive to the Trincomalee city development.
- Conserving the above said area would be a great gift to the heritage of the Sri Lankans.
- Trincomalee and it's neighboring "Kottiar" were great batt grounds of ancient kingdoms of Sri Lanka. "The strategic importance" of Trincomalee buy in pre colonial and colonial eras could be explained to the outer would (most suitable place for a war Museum).
- Was the official residence for Buitish Admirals of India Squadron. At a time it is the commanding Head quarters for British Naval Fleet of the Indian ocean.
- High potential and worth to keep it's military outlook using Architectural Strategies.



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- Being maintained by military authorities, no conservationists, architects, etc were involved.
- As a result liable for the destruction of most valuable monuments, paintings, elements, etc.
- Alien new buildings not responding to existing architectural context of the area. – The historical built Environment of Admiralty House disturbed.
- If used as a museum type public building, it may be a threat to the security of the present Naval Base of Trincomalee - Precautionary measures is a must.
- Historically Archaeologically and Architecturally – very important Building – no responsible Authority has done a Photographic Survey or detailed measured drawing for conservation – tendency to lose important elements of the building.

Other Historical Archaeological and Architectural important buildings in the Naval base – No measures have been taken by responsible authority to do a research or documentation. As a result of this, Heritage may be vanished without the awareness of the nation.

#### **4.1.4. Impacts from existing Heritage Protection Acts and conservation approaches on the Admiralty House**

As explained earlier the Admiralty House has been transformed from time to time for 400 years. But its recorded British History starts from 1803. However according to the British History, Admiralty House is more than 180 years old.

According to the explanations done "Definition for heritage protection acts", all acts that supportive to protect heritage, called heritage protection acts. And as explained there, these acts come under antiquity ordinance. As per the Antiquity ordinance all 100 years old buildings, Sites and monuments that are in the Sri Lankan Territory, automatically become Archaeological reserves. The Dept. of Archaeology is the authorized institution, which deals with the Archaeological reserves. But as per the records Dept. of Archaeology did not deal with the Admiralty house after the independence. Though Dept. of Archaeology did not deal with the Admiralty House, it is architecturally and archaeologically safe and in good condition even today.

This is an extra ordinary situation, without the influence of Heritage Protection acts. Admiralty House to be in safe hands so far. The reason might be, the maintenance done by the Sri Lanka Navy.

## **4.2. NAVAL COMMISSIONER'S HOUSE**

### **4.2.1. History of the Building**

In 1810 A.D. as a result of a military Proposal, made by Admiral Samuel Hood the commander-In-Chief of "East Indian Fleet", the Naval Head Quarters was transferred from Madras to Trincomalee.

A journal(1) at the library of Royal Asiatic Society in Colombo, provides this information.

"In October 1810, the decision was taken in London to breakup the naval establishment at Madras and transfer it to Trincomalee. The Magnitude of the work intended was reflected in the navy estimates. The buildings were to cost over 45,000 British Pounds besides of the huge sums to be expended on residences for the commander-In-Chief, the Commissioner, the Officers and workmen of the dockyard, a hospital and a victualling depot.

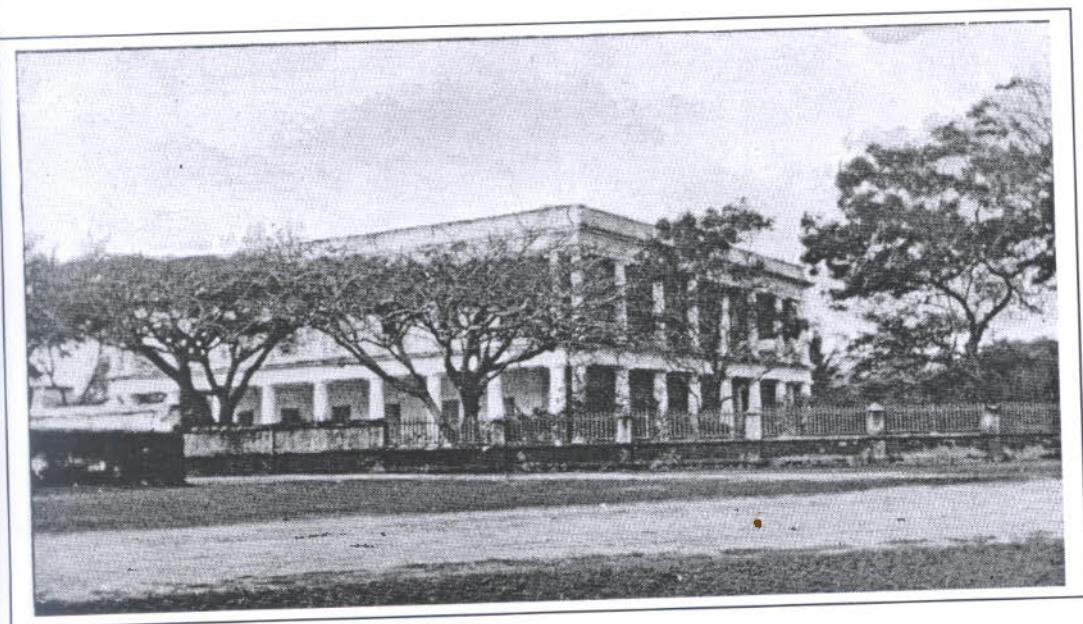
The plans for these buildings are reminiscent of the present naval dockyards in England. They make it clear beyond all doubts that the intention was to create a first-class naval base on similar lines to that later built in Malta. The money voted for Trincomalee in the naval estimates between 1819 and 1821 was the highest allowed for any Naval Yard in those years". As mentioned in the above quotation, spending a large amount of money the building constructed for naval commissioner of Trincomalee is called the "Naval Commissioner's House"

It is located in the Dockyard road which is close to the Dutch bay. See Satellite Image and the Trincomalee city guide map **Annexure: (05)** showing "Eastern University" is the Naval Commissioner's House.

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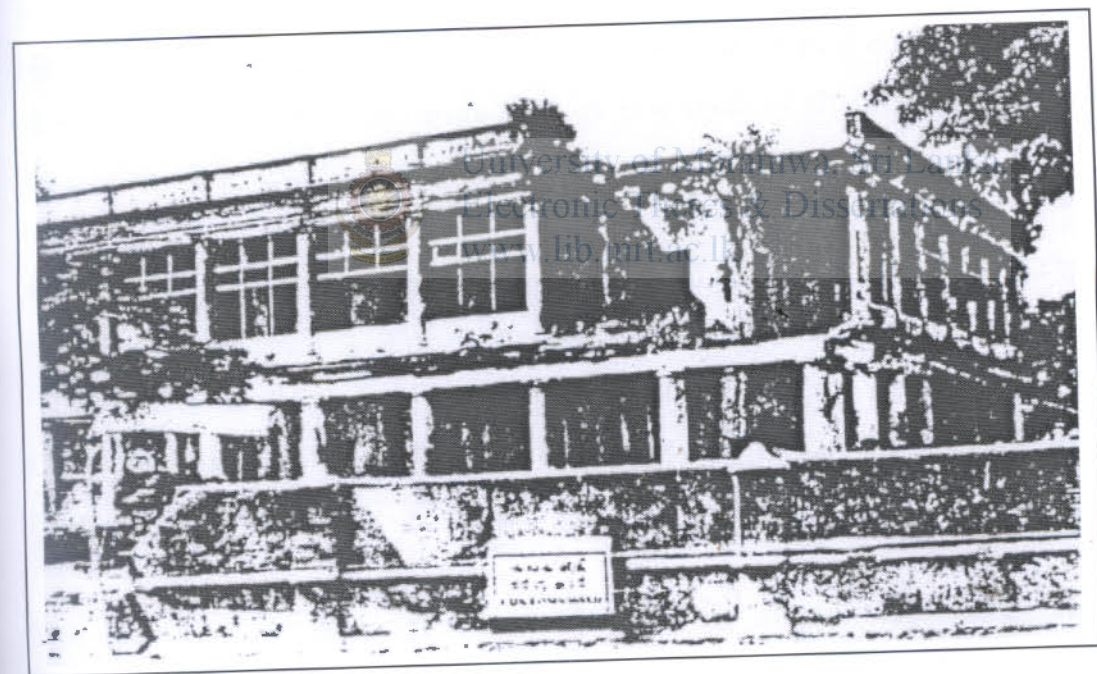
(1) Colgate, H.A. (1964), "the Royal Navy and Trincomalee. The History of their connection, C.1750-1958" THE CEYLON JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES, VOL. 7, ISSUE 01, P. 9.





**Fig: (135)** Naval Commissioner's house. Photograph taken in 1960's the building constructions was completed in 1822.(1)

**Source:** Cave, Henry W. (1900) "Golden Tips".



**Fig: (136)**

Naval Commissioner's house in 1990, showing the damaged part.

**Source:** UDA Provincial Office, Trincomalee.

(1) Colgate, H. A. (1964), "The Royal Navy and Trincomalee. The History of their Connection, C. 1750-1958", THE CEYLON JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES, VOL. 7, ISSUE 01, P. 9



**Fig: (137)** Naval commissioner's Building in 1990  
**Source:** Provincial Office, UDA Trincomalee.

As Colgate describes, outside the Trincomalee Naval base stood two monuments of grand design. They are the admiral's house and the commissioner's house. These were palatial beyond all comparison with the remainder of the buildings and in the style of the residencies built in Madras and Calcutta.



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Another important fact is that no any naval commissioner could reside in this Naval Commissioner's House. Colgate proves it in his article as "It is perhaps the most fitting commissioner's upon Trincomalee that Commissioner's House was never occupied by any more exalted officer than a storekeeper".(1)

The Naval commissioner's task deals with administration of naval activities. As per the decision in 1810 that the naval establishment at Madras and transferred it to Trincomalee.

(1) Colgate, H.A. (1964), "The Royal Navy and Trincomalee. The History of their connection, C.1750-1958," THE CEYLON JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES, VOL. 7, ISSUE 01, P. 10



Consequently Naval ware houses of Madras were transferred to Ostenburg coastal line, in the inner harbour of Trincomalee in 1813 to 1816. Naval commissioner at that time was Mr. P. Pajet. He performed his duties in Madras without coming to Sri Lanka. How ever he never come to reside at naval commissioner's House at Trincomalee.(1)

The Naval commissioner's House is used as Sri Lankan Government offices such as office space for Department of Education and Kachcheri etc. But now education office is located in a new building, close to Orr's hill junction. Kachcheri is located in the Fort Frederic.



**Fig: (138)** Naval Commissioner's House in 2006

Naval commissioner's House is one of the remarkable buildings which reflects the historical and architectural values. And also shows the unusual technology used in the upper floor construction with bricks and timber joists made during the British rule.

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(1) PF/ 1267 : Letter No 07 – 1905 (..... For Kachcheri, Naval Commissioner's house and Admiralty house for Hospital) P.F. stands for pending files, **source:** National Archives, Colombo.

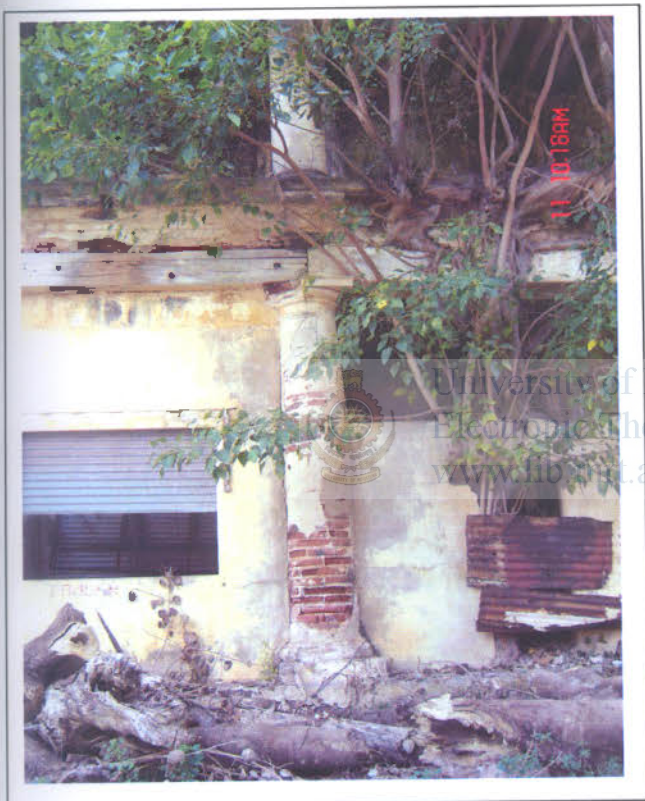




**Fig: (139)**

**Unusual technology**

A slab which make out of clay bricks supported on timber beams.



**Fig: (140)**

**Unusual technology**

The right hand side concrete beam which supports the brick column, is connected to a timber beam, which may have been done in a renovation project of this building



**Fig: (141)**

As this building was kept closed for a long period and made no maintenance, this has been deteriorating day by day.



**Fig: (142)**

Trees had grown within the building at some locations and affected the structure of the building. It is high time to take precautions to renovate otherwise not be able to use this building any more.



**Fig: (143)**

View of the Naval Commissioner's House from another angle.



**Fig: (144)**

Naval Commissioner's House, Severely deteriorating



When considering the Architectural Importance of this Naval commissioner's House, many past and present important public buildings have been constructed possessing an environmental quality of enduring and dignified quality. This Naval commissioner's House also possesses the same.

This building is rectangular in shape having a ground and a first floor. The solid structures with right round circular colonnades with British touch in ground and upper floor enhance it's dignity while creating enduring quality. The column heads, beams fascia and other details reflect the expertise British architecture.

When discussing the overall form and space Arrangements, the base form constitutes a two storied single block having right round Verandah with raw of columns, which has the access to the main staircase located just in front of the entrance porch. The single storey entrance porch is located on the access road from the arch shaped main gate entrance on the main road. The roof slab is hidden by the raised fascia walls.

All the rooms and verandahs are spacious. Rooms in the ground floor are arranged facing the right round verandahs and the centre lobby located in the middle of the building just behind the main stair case. The upper floor rooms too are arranged similar to the ground floor.



#### 4.2.2. History of Conservation of the building

Though Naval Commissioner's House is not used by any Naval commissioner, it has been used for Government Civil Departmental Offices. As mentioned earlier this Building has functioned as the Trincomalee Kachcheri, and the Department of education. Now both the Kachcheri and the education office function in other buildings.

But unfortunately no Institution or authority is appointed to conserve or repair this building. Also not using the building for any other purpose.

But there is a clue of a refurbishment of this building, has done in a very early stage. **Fig: (145)**



**Fig: (145)** concrete beam which supported on the brick column connected to a timber beam.- a trace of an early refurbishment.

### 4.2.3. Probable Potentials of the SWOT ANALYSIS

#### Strengths :

- Naval Commissioner's House is a special land mark to the city of Trincomalee.
  - Situated close to the Dutch bay.
  - Location is very attractive.
  - Massive building and it's surrounding creates a British Period landscape in mind.
  - Due to it's massiveness and the height, is a land mark to the city.
- Historically, it is a very Important Building.
  - According to the British History it was constructed in 1822 A.D. (there are two Palatial buildings constructed expending a large amount of money. One is this and the other is being the Admiralty house – (Colgate).
- Architecturally and Archaeologically it is very significant.
  - Special British Architectural details and technology has been used to construct.
  - The materials, used for this building, such as Timber finishes, bricks floor slab materials are extraordinary.
  - It is an Architectural Master piece.
- It creates Sound Architectural expressions to the city.
  - A significant building in the urban fabric.
  - Creates Architecturally a dominating feeling among other buildings.
- Naval Commissioner's House is Marvelously situated in the identified first settlements of Trincomalee.
  - This Chieftains House too situated within the first settlements of Trincomalee.
  - This Building depicts the top in the hierarchy of the residential zone of the Trincomalee.



## Naval Commissioner's House. YSIS



### Weaknesses :

Naval Commissioner's House is badly Deteriorating.

- Building kept unused for a long period – nor maintenance – deteriorating day by day.
- Present condition is very critical – requires huge amount of money for its refurbishment.

The building materials of it have been robbed.

- Building is administered by the eastern university of Sri Lanka. Proposed for preservation projects – not implemented due to prevailing social upheavals.
- Building elements doors and windows, timber beams etc, have been robbed.

Historically Architecturally and Archaeologically significant building which is more than 100 years old, still is not declared as an “ Archaeological reserve”.

- Was constructed in the year 1822.
- Period between 1948 till 1970, it has been used for Kachcheri and the education office of Trincomalee.

1990, the eastern Provincial Urban Development Authority has made Proposal, for the restoration – has not been implemented.

- At present the restoration proposal report available at the U.D.A. Provincial office at the Trincomalee. Though it is not implemented.

Though behave as a land mark to the Trincomalee city, it's dilapidated decaying appearance causes a “Visual Pollution” to the on lookers.

- Collapsed building parts, weather beaten building materials and wild grown bushes and trees grown on the dilapidated building is creating a visual unpleasantness to the city.

Continued.





## **Opportunities :**

- If the building is refurbished it will be a great asset to the city in different aspects.
  - Is a valuable feature to the city character, to the urban fabric, and the city skyline.
  - Could be used as a building attached to the Eastern University.
  - Is a possibility to function as a Museum or a small city Hotel of tourism industry.
  - Can consider as a Monument of history.
- Making a Replica of the Naval commissioner's house, will be beneficial for the future.
  - Is a way of conservation – it will be helpful as a exhibit making the society aware of heritage protection.
- A remarkable resourceful place for conservationists and scholars.
  - Rare Architectural and technical details can be observed.

Valuable for study purposes in the stream of Architecture and Archaeology



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## **Threats :**

- There is a tendency for total decaying (ruination) of the building.
  - None of any authorities have taken any action to preserve it.
  - It will be a great loss to the Heritage of Trincomalee and the nation, if this negligence continues.
- Architecturally alien buildings are coming up close to the Naval commissioner's House.
  - Surrounding area of this building is considered as the first settlements of Trincomalee.
  - Now this historical area is expanding as the " Residential zone" of Trincomalee.
  - Architecturally alien mismatching building, of Modern Style are under construction in close proximity.
- Naval Commissioner's House, due to its location has a threat from strong sea winds.
  - Being situated in the Dockyard road which close proximity to Dutch bay sea, - for damages from the sea wind and the salinity of the sea.



#### **4.2.2. Impacts from existing Heritage protection Acts and conservation approaches on the Naval Commissioner's House.**

Heritage protection acts, are supportive to protect historical buildings, sites and monuments. Another fact is that these acts come under antiquity ordinance of Sri Lanka.

These acts, rules or regulations are not applied for the conservation of Naval Commissioners House so far. Building is being severely deteriorating from about 1970. As mentioned early, this building was constructed in 1822 A.D. It is 184 years old to the year 2006. If any building that is old more than 100 years, it is considered as an Archaeological reserve. Yet the building is deteriorating.

However, the Dept. of Archaeology is willing to declare that the Naval commissioners house premises is prohibited for outsiders as it will be an Archaeological reserve.



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## **4.3. Museum Building**

### **4.3.1. History of the Museum Building**

This building is situated at inner harbour Road and close to the present harbour Police and the Jetty. **Annexure:(5)**). As per the compiler found records of this building was constructed before 1887.

If we carefully observe the inner harbour road area at Trincomalee, there are some evidences regarding old buildings. Most of them are depicting colonial Architectural characters,. This Museum building is the only remaining oldest building at inner harbour road without more damages.

At present this building is closed and abandoned. It has been used for many purposes such as, in pre-Independence days it was used as a custom House of inner harbour, after the Independence for Government offices. Finally it was used as the "Trincomalee Museum" that's why people call it the Museum Building. By observing this building one could see Dutch and English Architectural characters init Doors, Windows, Columns right round Verandah, Architectural Mouldings and other Details of the building reveals it's significant colonial characters. Why is this building situated particularly of this location ?

Trincomalee is situated in the east coast of the Island of Sri Lanka. As mentioned earlier Black Bay was used as a harbour from the colonial era. We are able to find information easily that in the colonial period this back bay was used as a harbour. When in the north east monsoon, (November – March) the sea around Trincomalee becomes rough, consequently ship anchorages are unsafe in Back Bay, therefore ships were anchored in inner harbour. **Annexure: (1)** When Northeast monsoon period comes inner harbour is safe for ships and sea vessels. Hence they needed a customs house.

Then they have used this building **Fig: (146)** as the customs house in inner harbour.(1) As Mr. Somasiri Devendra explains when English were ruling the country a large amount of crops which cultivated in Sampoor, Mutur and Kinnia areas, were transported to Trincomalee through the inner harbour, and Taxes were paid to this customs House.



**Fig: (146)** Museum building located at inner harbour road.

There may be some other buildings attached to the customs house but this is the only remaining building used for customs office. Some people who lived in Trincomalee from long ago are aware that this building has functioned as the Customs House in inner harbour of Trincomalee.



**Fig: (147)** Museum building in another angle.

(1) Higgs, Joseph (1857), THE HARBOUR OF TRINCOMALEE, CEYLON ALMANAC AND ANNUAL REGISTER OF OUR LORD – 1857 P 235 – 236 WILLAM SKEEN, GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY CEYLON: Source: National Archives, Colombo.





**Fig :(148)** This Museum building is thatched with calicut tiles and half round tiles.

At present this museum of Trincomalee is closed and is deteriorating day by day. Recently the museum of Colombo prepared a report on remaining artifacts of the abandoned Museum of Trincomalee. In that report followings are listed.



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1. Stone column base with carvings.
2. Stone relic casket of stupa with 25 small chambers.
3. A portion of Korawakgala.
4. Stone Element which having two pordium.
5. Stone "Durga" statue
6. Stone "Vamana" lotus statue
7. A portion of a Bodhisathwa statue
8. Headless sitting Buddha statue - 03 nos.
9. Headless seated Buddha statue
10. Buddha statue covered with a 5 Hooded Cobra.
11. Headless Seated Buddha Statue.
12. Headless Seated Buddha Statue.
13. Headless small statue.



## Stone Inscriptions

14. Column inscription (8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C.)

15. An inscription with Persian letters

(In early chapters of this study it was revealed, that in the, 14<sup>th</sup> century, there were Arabian-Muslim Settlements around Trincomalee bay, which engaged in the trading, and ship building industry.

This Persian inscription may have connection with the said Arabian-Muslim Culture).

16. A slate with Brahmi Letters

## Clay Items.

17. Two goddess statues with a veneration posture.

18. Three decorative bricks.

19. Five broken bricks and collection of Pieces of Clay Pots.

20. Some of these items are found in the Temple called ("Velgam Vehara").

Under mentioned quotation taken from "CEYLON ALMANAC AND ANNUAL REGISTER" which was prepared by *Master Attendant* of Kachcheri in 1857.\*

(Here *Master Attendant* was a special old designation which recruited in the Kachcheri by the British Administration).

The "CEYLON ALMANAC AND ANNUAL REGISTER" of Kachcheri document is old more than 100 years. Therefore a copy of it attached at the appendix here. It can be referred at the National Archives Colombo.

"Back Bay is also an excellent anchorage with from 10 to 5 fathoms of water good holding ground, sea quite smooth, so that the smallest boats may land. Fort Frederick forms the South East Point of the bay, the Flag – staff there is in Latitude 8° 14' 52" East.

#### 4.3.2. History of Conservation of the Museum Building

Origin of this building is some what obscure. But by observing elements of the building, some Dutch architecture characters could be identified. This building has been using as a Custom House by the English, when they occupied the inner harbour of Trincomalee.

Under mentioned quotation taken from the "ADMINISTRATION REPORTS" prepared by the Asst. Govt. Agent of Trincomalee in 1887 see the appendix.

"The Inner Harbour Custom- House leaks like a sieve. This is owing to the wrong pitch of the roofs of the two Verandahs, witch are enclosed as rooms. It requires immediate alteration" This quotation reveals that Trincomalee Kachcheri has renovated in 1887. Another important fact reveals that the Custom House building was constructed before 1887. A.D.



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However this building was used after 1887. There fore it has been renovated and utilized. As Mr. Caldera explained "The old Dutch building which housed the Kachcheri in 1953 had become the Museum".

A building which was used for the Kachcheri cannot utilize as a Museum suddenly. Therefore it should have been renovated in 1953 for the purpose.

When the compiler visited the Dept. of Museums in Colombo, to Search information regarding the museum, an officer pointed out that, a file with one paper maintaining this Eastern Provincial Museum' at his appointment as the responsible officer for the above Museum. And he showed a list of artifacts done by him which were taken from the dilapidated above museum. The list of artifacts of the museum

mentioned under previously discussed sub heading “History of the museum building”.

Therefore it is the high time to prepare preliminary pre conservation Details such as

- History of the building
- Photographic survey of existing situation of the building
- Measured Drawings of the total building and measured drawings of important parts of the building.
- Collect early Photographs and measured drawings of the building.

If refrained from these, it might have missed the important Archaeological and Architectural Details, which are very important in historical building conservation.



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### 4.3.3. Probable Potential SWOT A

#### **Strengths :**

- Architecturally enriched colonial building situated in the inner harbour area.
  - Single storied Massive building, roof thatched with local clay tiles and outer Verandah with circular Colonnade.
  - Dutch building elements also could be observed.
  - Was the museum of Trincomalee from 1953.
- Still in a condition to renovate and reuse.
  - No need of high amount of funds for the conservation and the refurbishment.
- There is an Architectural and Archaeological importance of the Building.
  - Important asset for conservationists and scholars.
- Utilization, after renovation of the Museum for "awareness of heritage" and understanding among the multi racial society.
  - From 1953 it is the Museum of Trincomalee – now in dilapidated condition.
  - Could be refurbished without much difficulty.
  - Could be utilized to make people aware of their Heritage and understanding among the multiracial society of Trincomalee.

## s of the Museum Building. ANALYSIS



### Weaknesses :

- Unavailability of Architectural Particulars and History of the building with the responsible Authority.
  - Though the Trincomalee Museum is under Dept. of Museums, at present no Sufficient documents available in the department.
- Due to the lack of conservation attention by conservatory institutions, it's Hereditary value is deteriorating.
  - No responsibility in conservation point, leave a mere building – will be deteriorated forever, losing a valuable Heritage to the nation.
- Though this building is a great asset in the stream of Architecture an Archaeology, Nobody is engaged in research or conservation.
  - Main reason is unawareness of the old buildings in Trincomalee.



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Continued...



## **Opportunities :**

- Possibility of being re-use as the previous Museum of Trincomalee.
  - Though it is dilapidated in condition, it could be used again with a refurbishment.
- Resourceful Place for conservationists and scholars.
  - It could be use as an example for other conservators and scholars.
- Making a Replica of the Museum of Trincomalee, will be beneficial for Future.
  - Is a way of conservation.
- It will cater to the city's building fabric and as a land mark.
  - After a refurbishment, it will merge well – in Architectural city fabric.
  - Will act as a significant land mark to the city of Trincomalee.



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## **reats :**

- Due to its location by the sea, the Museum building has a possibility of damage from salty wind.
  - Building is located in the inner harbour road close to the sea.
  - Tendency to affect with salty winds for Artifacts as well as the Museum.
- Architecturally unsound Buildings are coming up close to the Museum building.
  - Buildings of different Architectural styles are under construction in close proximity.
- There is a tendency for total ruination of the Museum Building.
  - Though Dept. of Archaeology and Dept. of Museums have responsibility, so far no action has taken to preserve it.
  - If this situation prevails, this building will be ruined forever – A great loss to the Heritage of Trincomalee.



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#### **4.3.4. Impacts from existing heritage protection acts and conservation approaches on the museum building**

**Though, this valuable Museum building is more than hundred years old. Dept. of Archaeology or Dept. Museums do not pay their attention to conserve it.**

The preservation of hundred years old Museum building, automatically come under Dept. of Archaeology as per the antiquity ordinance of Sri Lanka. But it is still deteriorating and no action has been taken so far. Another fact is that though this Museum building is being used by the dept. of Museums, they too do not take actions to preserve it. Therefore both departments should take actions to preserve this building without further delay. The object of the Heritage protection acts in antiquity ordinance of Sri Lanka is the protection of Heritage of the country. These buildings of more than hundred years old are happen to be the Sri Lankan Heritage. It is observed that though the Heritage protection acts are available. They are not implementing in the required situations. This situation is a threat to this kind of Heritage in Sri Lanka. Hence it is a fact that, these heritage protection acts should be amended in the near future.

#### **4.4. Former Hospital at fort Frederick**

(Through the research the compiler has been able to find out this building as a military Hospital )

##### **4.4.1. History of the building**

The compiler needs to prove that this building has been a Hospital. (carefully observe the **Annexure: (01)**) (This map is prepared in 1914). will show that in the bottom of it the Fort Frederick, and towards North, in the middle you can find this hospital marked as a square, in side of it there are two small squares. They should be the court yards of this Hospital.

The compiler could not find any person, occupying this building at fort Frederick or out side, whether this building has originally functioned as a Hospital.

Colonial period columns are located right round the building, special ventilation and lighting method can be seen within this building. (see figures)

When studying Mr. Caldera's dissertation we can understand that this hospital has been built before 1870. In his study I quote According to "Lord Kimberley's approval document No 08 has given approval to refurbish barracks and hospitals in fort Frederick's and fort Ostenburg.(This fort Ostenburg is situated within the Navy base of Trincomalee).

At present these Hospital buildings are being used as their barracks by military personnel, attached to Sri Lankan Army. Fort Frederick is mostly used as barracks facilities for stand by Armies to cover the military requirements of Indian Ocean and beyond by British Armies in the colonial period.



Authority ordered that he should sail for Egypt, but under the command of General Sir David Baird. Wellesley thereupon, on his own responsibility, embarked his troops and sailed to Bombay. Baird arrived in Trincomalee to find his force has gone".

When British military troops were residing at the Fort Frederick, they wanted Hospital facilities. But they had to be satisfied with military Dispensaries.(1)

But as mentioned early, when arriving of large number of troops, they faced severe health problems. Another fact is that, military troops were suffering from small pox, cholera etc. annually. As a result of it British military authorities decided to establish Hospitals in Fort Ostenburg and Fort Frederick. Here, the compiler is discussing the erected hospital in the Fort Frederick.



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- Orientation of the building
- Responding to the climate and enhance the ventilation and daylight, by special roof detail.
- Column details
- And other related buildings are well designed. It is another important place to study British Architecture.

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(1) Rankine, Esme, (1957), "House of our Heritage", Ceylon Today, November P. 17



**Fig :(149)**

The long Hospital building having two middle court yards.



**Fig: (150)**

The same building from the another side



**Fig: (151)**

Special Ventilation detail at roof of the same hospital building





**Fig; (152)**  
Special Ventilation  
detail, view from the  
bottom.



**Fig: (153)**  
Details of the  
Column Head



**Fig: (154)**  
Separate building which  
catered for hospital  
purposes, now it is  
occupied by the military  
personnel.



#### 4.4.2. History of Conservation of the building

As previously mentioned these buildings have been functioned as military barracks. Unfortunately these occupants too do not know that this building is the former military Hospital of Fort Frederick. It may be the lack of cultural awareness of the society.

When searching History of this Hospital building, a British report says that “a special fund have been allocated for refurbishment and expansion of Hospitals and barracks of all British military bases in Sri Lanka” (1)

According to the above fund allocation, as per the Lord Kimberley's approval document – No 08 prepared in 1870 has given approval to refurbish this hospital and other barracks.(2)

As per the recorded history this is the earliest refurbishment of this Hospital building, as present occupants, Sri Lankan military personnel do the maintenance of this building. But due to Lack of Heritage Protection awareness, they would not have followed conservation strategies.

The unfortunate fact is that, though this building is old more than 100 years, relevant authorities did not take any precautionary actions to protect them for the future generation.

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(1)(2) Caldera H.C.L. , (2003) “Trikunamala Varaye Jathyanthara Vedagathkama” M.A. Thesis, Dept. of History and Archaeology: University of Sri Jayawardhanapura P. 81

#### 4.4.3. Probable Potentials of Fort SWOT Analysis

##### Strengths :

- Documents have been found, by the compiler to Prove this building as the "Hospital of Fort Frederick".
  - The occupants, do not know the History of this building, yet they maintain it, without decaying.
  - Now it is high time for conservation and documentation.
- It is rich in Architectural Characters.
- There is an Archaeological importance of the Building.
  - This building is a valuable asset for conservationists and scholars.
- Though, this building is old more than 100 years. It is in Sound Condition.
  - Hence its Architectural Character remains as it was. And no need of high amount of money to conserve and for the refurbishment.

## Former Hospital at Fort Frederick. ANALYSIS



### Weaknesses :

- Present occupants and the neighbors do not know, this was the Hospital at Fort Frederick.
  - The cultural awareness of the society is poor.
  - Relevant Authorities do not perform their duties.
- Due to the lack of attention by conservation institutions, it's Heritage value is deteriorating.
  - This valuable building may become a mere building in repairing by layman.
- Building is a great asset in the Stream of Archaeology and the Architecture, Nobody is engaged in research or conservation.
  - As a result of it this building may decay without any awareness of the citizens.
- Local Authorities and the main Government do not pay their attention so far in this kind of Heritage protection field.
  - Consequently Historical and Cultural importance may vanish without anybody's intelligence in the country. It may be a great loss to the nation.



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Continued....





## **Opportunities :**

- While the military Personnel are occupying the buildings, the relevant Authorities should advise and make them realize the importance of the building. And can assist them to conserve it in reusing.
- Hence this building can be kept long-lasting for the future generation.
- In future this building may use as a museum or institute which would be beneficial to the area.
- Conservationists and scholars can do researches on this building.



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## **Threats :**

- While occupying the building by military personnel, it may have a possibility to destruction to it's decorative Architectural elements due to the unawareness of cultural importance of the building.
  - In reusing though there are cultural awareness, they consider only the special and inhabitable condition to the military personnel.
  - Not have enough time to repair the buildings – no attention given to the important Architectural Monuments and etc.
- Architecturally different styles of Buildings, which are unsuitable to the existing context of the Hospital Building, already constructed within the site, by present occupants.
  - At present without any permission they construct new buildings.
- At present, military authorities do not allow conservationists and scholars to enter the former hospital site.
  - If above said specialists involve at the time of refurbishments of these buildings it will be an opportunity to save the valuable Architectural Monuments and the Archaeological Remains.
- Though this building is more than 100 years old, no any responsible Department or institution so far has taken action to preserve it.
  - This is high time for it's documentation, such as, preparing Architectural Measured Drawings, and Photographic Surveys, or otherwise any information, which will be required in future.

#### **4.4.4. Impacts from existing Heritage protection acts and conservation approaches on former hospital at Fort Frederick.**

Heritage protection acts means the acts coming under Antiquity ordinance of department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka.

The Final Goal of acts in antiquities ordinance is , the heritage protection in the country. In 1971, in accordance with the Antiquities ordinance, Department of Archaeology vested the ramparts of Fort Frederick in Trincomalee. For details see appendix.

Though it was vested by a Gazette notification, 25 years ago from now they do not have even listed buildings in the fort Frederick. Consequently, they did not implemented preservation at the former hospital buildings at fort Frederick.

It is understood that, though there are acts under antiquity ordinance, for the Heritage protection, these acts were not implemented due to some critical fact.

1. Lack of funds available for conservation projects.
2. Lack of officers in the field of Archaeology.
3. Officers and workers reluctant to work in such places in North and the East.

However the former Hospital buildings were not noted by the relevant Authorities. At least they do not know that this was a Hospital.

Hence, scholars like us have a responsibility to reveal the importance of the Hospital Building at Fort Frederick. It will be a sound influence to preserve the building for the future generation.

Compiler's suggestion is that, these acts must be amended according to the present day needs. And should establish a Foundation to protect the Heritage in Trincomalee. The compiler's suggest that the name of it should be **"Trincomalee Heritage Foundation"**.



## **4.5. Former Garrison Church at Fort Frederick**

### **4.5.1. History of the building**

This small church is located in one of the summits in the fort Frederick and Situated in one corner of "Fort Frederick Hill" see the satellite image.

"This church is a Protestant Church in the fort is generally locked"(1). When studying the above mentioned quotation's foot note it is understood that this church was constructed before 1819.

Generally this type of churches which were situated in Forts are called "Garrison Churches". Another fact is that, all ways there was a garrison church in every Fort. There is a meaning for the Garrison Church, in a Fort. Garrison Forts are always fortified with Artillery guns or with Cannon. Military personnel who was operating artillery should be specialized in taking targets. In a situation, Mental concentration is very essential. They have used these churches for their mental concentration.

"The roof of the garrison church was likewise battered down, in which condition it still continues; and the shell of the house is employed as a tennis – court for the amusement of the soldiers. No English chaplain has ever resided at this station.(2)

By studding the above mentioned quotation's foot note, it is obvious that when in 1983 this church building was in dilapidated condition. The deteriorating Church Building could be seen without it's roof in the first visit to Trincomalee in 1999, by the compiler. A special kind of walled structure with mouldings can be observed in the Entrance of the building.

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(1) Major Enriquez, C.M. (1819) "CHAPTER XVLL", CEYLON PAST AND PRESENT, PATERNOSTER HOUSE E.C.4. HURST & BLACKETT, LTD. P. 190.

(2) Cordiner, James (1983), Description of Ceylon, Colombo : K.V.G. Silva & Son (Colombo) Ltd P. 274.

At present Garrison church building is not functioning as a church. Meanwhile a Hindu Temple (Koneswaram Kovil) is fully functioning and Buddhist shrines and worshipping places are functioning. Therefore it is better to commence functioning a church again. Thus it will be an encouragement for inter religious understanding among the society.

After refurbishment of Garrison church, it will cater significantly in the Architectural Environment and the Archaeology of the Fort Frederick. Consequently a tendency may occur for conserving of their buildings, finally it will be a positive factor for Tourism Industry in Trincomalee.

Other buildings including Garrison church , in the fort Frederick has been declared as "Archaeological reserve" in the year 1971, according to the Antiquities ordinance of Sri Lanka. The Garrison church refurbishment in the year 2005 is a major conservation project by the Dept. of Archaeology in Trincomalee. It is observed that there is a tendency to conserve other dilapidated buildings by starting conservation it is a good sign for the future of old buildings at Trincomalee.

Prior to refurbishment of Garrison church, it was badly deteriorated. Due to ugly looking debris of the building have created "Visual Pollution" to the surrounding area. But now after the refurbishment of the building it had become a pleasant environment.

After renovation, the Garrison church Building has a great demand by Governmental and non Governmental Institutions for their usage.

The building should be transferred temporarily to responsible institution with conditions which supportive to protect the building, such as when retransferring the building, it should be handed over with the proper condition. Earlier, when using this they have vacated the buildings when buildings were in type of historically valuable



buildings most institutions did not do any more renovations for buildings they used. Finally bad conditions. To avoid this, it is essential to select correct user with conversation conditions.



**Fig : (155)**

The Garrison church after restoring by the Dept. of Archeology in the year 2005



**Fig: (156 )**

The Garrison church, view from the seaside after the restoration



#### 4.5.2. History of the conservation of Garrison Church of Fort Frederick

The garrison church of Fort Frederick has functioned from British period. As earlier explained, it was constructed mainly for Garrison squadron at Fort Frederick.

Many buildings of the fort Frederick has been abandoned for a long time. It is proved by the under mentioned quotation.

“Many of the buildings are in ruins, from the effects of protracted sieges the dilapidations of which have never been repaired.” (1)

When studying the foot note of this quotation, the publication year of the book is 1983. It reveals that the buildings of Fort Frederick including Garrison Church have been not repaired or conserved for number of years.

After, more that 50 years, Department of Archaeology refurbished the church building In the year 2005.

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(1) Cordiner, James (1983), Description of Ceylon, Colombo : K.V.G. Silva & Son (Colombo) Ltd P 274.

### 4.5.3. Probable Potentials of SWOT

#### Strengths :

- Garrison Church is more than Hundred years old.
  - This church was build before the year 1819.
- Refurbishment of the Garrison Church by the Dept. of Archaeology is a remarkable start for conservation of buildings in Trincomalee.
- At present no visual Pollution.



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## Garrison Church at Fort Frederick ANALYSIS



### Weaknesses :

- Though the Garrison church restored by the Dept. of Archaeology. It has less “Pre-conservation Details” regarding the building.
- Correct “usage” must be selected to the restored building.
- Garrison church is located in a Rocky Promontory by the sea with high sea wind.
  - Should take safety precautions in building conservation to withstand this type of natural forces, (But there are no safety precaution could be seen within the Garrison church building.)
- Garrison church renovation done in contract basis.
  - Conservation supervisor’s services are very essential (it is noticed that this restoration completed without proper supervision of conservators.)



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#### **4.5.4. Impacts from existing Heritage Protection Acts and Conservation approaches on Former Garrison Church at Fort Frederick.**

The Final Aim of acts in antiquities ordinance is heritage protection in particulars building. Monument or sites.

In 1971, according to the Antiquities ordinance, Dept. of Archaeology declared that, the ramparts of fort Frederick is a Archaeological reserve hereafter.

Therefore Garrison church automatically come under antiquities ordinance because it is situated with in the fort Frederick. It came to know that this building was being deteriorating before 1971. When the compiler visited Trincomalee in 1999 this building was severely deteriorating. Though there are so many acts prevailing, not any relevant authority came forward to conserve this Garrison Church Building.



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However Dept. of Archeology lunched a conservation project to conserve the building to be completed in 2005.

Hence it is understood that though there are heritage protection acts, they were not implemented due to some critical facts.

- Lack of funds available for conservation projects.
- Lack of officers in the relevant field.
- Officers and workers reluctant to work in such places in north and the east.

During the colonial period the towns and cities were developed on the need of the governing powers. The infra structure facilities, the education, the industries and even the culture was to facilitate the colonies ruling system. Sri Lanka being one of the countries under several foreign invasions display multi layers of such traces in abundance left in the country. Certain cities and towns have constructed and developed by the foreign invaders and life evolved and exists still in them.

Trincomalee is one such city inheriting a unique location and prime ground for a civilization to settle down. Later it was developed by the foreign rulers for many centuries and was left by them to become a part of our history. Along with time with ascribing values we inherit them and have become our endowments. The value and importance of them can be measured, in many aspects and view points such as historic, aesthetic, patriotic, cultural etc.

Trincomalee city as described in the former chapters encompasses a long history on its formation. It's physical development was happened under the colonial and pre colonial era. It comprises of a host of buildings and monuments built centuries ago.

It's documented history reveals the vitality, importance and uniqueness of the natural setting of Trincomalee city and its location in the Indian ocean. Yet after these centuries old documentations it is very hardly can find any material written on the physical context of this city. No formal research has carried out during the recent past.

The war situation deprives the scholars or any researcher to carry out a study related to the architectural, archeological or social impact of the city of Trincomalee.



Even before the war very little concern has paid on the up keeping and maintaining of the Trincomalee city. The authorities had been less responsible in proclaiming its significance and the recognition of its value as a heritage city. Thus no conservation approaches have followed even in the few development programmes implemented.

Since the post colonial era city life continued under going changes with time. And the buildings were used for different purposes. without proper maintenance on the process of reuse most of buildings have mutilated and some are in the state of dilapidation. Attempts must be made to protect its living significance in re using them.

It is very necessary to make people aware of their inheritance and it makes the city spaces and its dwellers unite. Thus reusing can be applied as the best method to maintain the physical context of a city.

In year 2001, a proposal has formed for the Trincomalee, District as an 'Integrated development plan'. Yet only the 'Fort Fredrick' is identified as a heritage zone, studying only the urban council area of the city. Even though this basic study reveals a number of important architecturally valuable old buildings scattered largely in the city region no consideration has payed on such buildings and its surrounding environs that incompatible building structures have distorted the setting of several quarters of the city.

The Trincomalee development plan should be altered and more engagement of professionals is essential in the development strategies. "Development through conservation" would be more appropriate approach for the city of Trincomalee.

Maintaining the buildings as exhibits would be an extra burden for a third world country like Sri Lanka therefore the public assistance should be gained for the conservation process. The setting should facilitate its community to use the spaces and to dwell in it. Maintaining the space through its usage while communicating its



historic message continuously can be done by making people comfortable with the spaces assigning suitable functions for them- specially for public buildings. Due to war situation most of the old buildings in Trincomalee are used for military purposes and kept in isolation from the public interferences. Some are barricaded while many in the public quarters are under dilapidated condition without maintenance. Once well knitted built fabric with its architectural elements are losing its spirit while the society is "disinheriting the inheritance"

The research reveals the need to identity the significance of the Trincomalee city (not only the Fort Fredrick) and declare it as a heritage site with rules and regulations formulated to up keep its authenticity in developing its physical and social conditions.

Though the war situation has kept away Trincomalee from normal administrative criterion it is high time to value its significance. such an awareness for public is essential in conserving Trincomalee as a living monument.

It is hoped that this study will help the students and the other scholars to do further researches on the city of Trincomalee and also will be an eye opener for the responsible authorities to take steps for its conservation. As there is no formal study done recently on the physical context of Trincomalee this study provides first hand experience and valuable information gathered by the compiler facing many a hardships due to security reasons .

Also it is the intention of the study to expose the hidden information about the physical setting, it's history and the potentials the Trincomalee city encompasses for the country as an asset.

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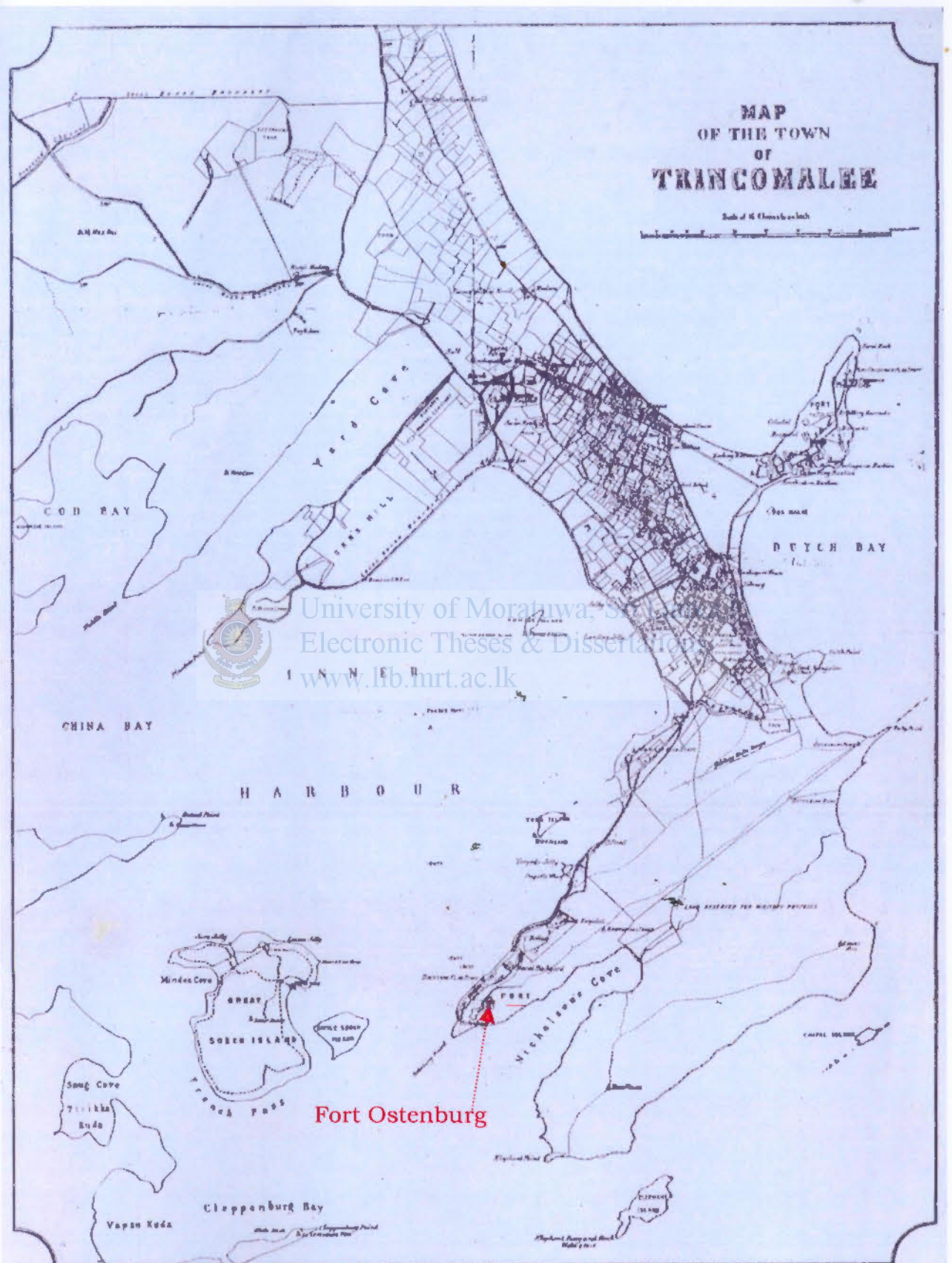
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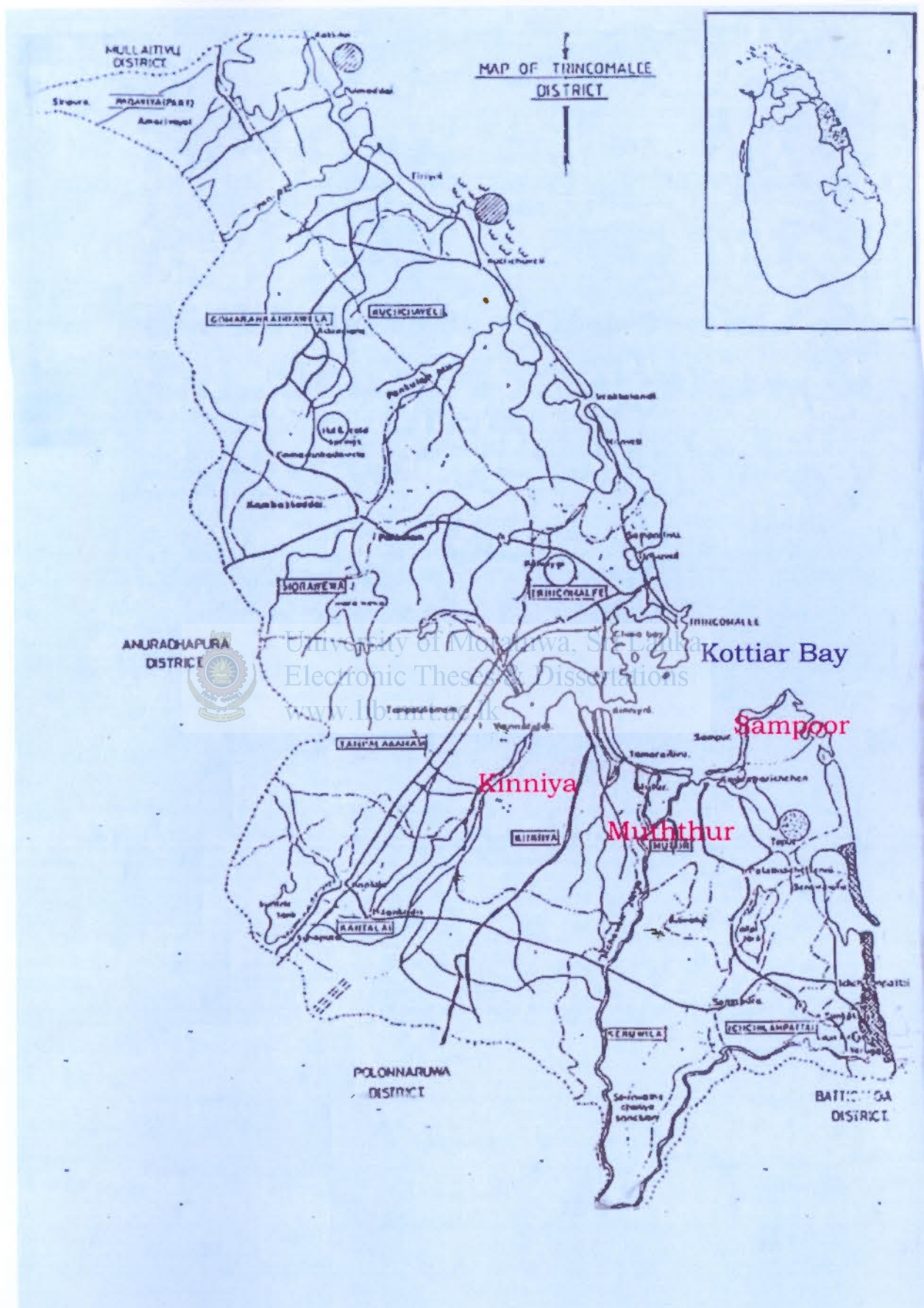






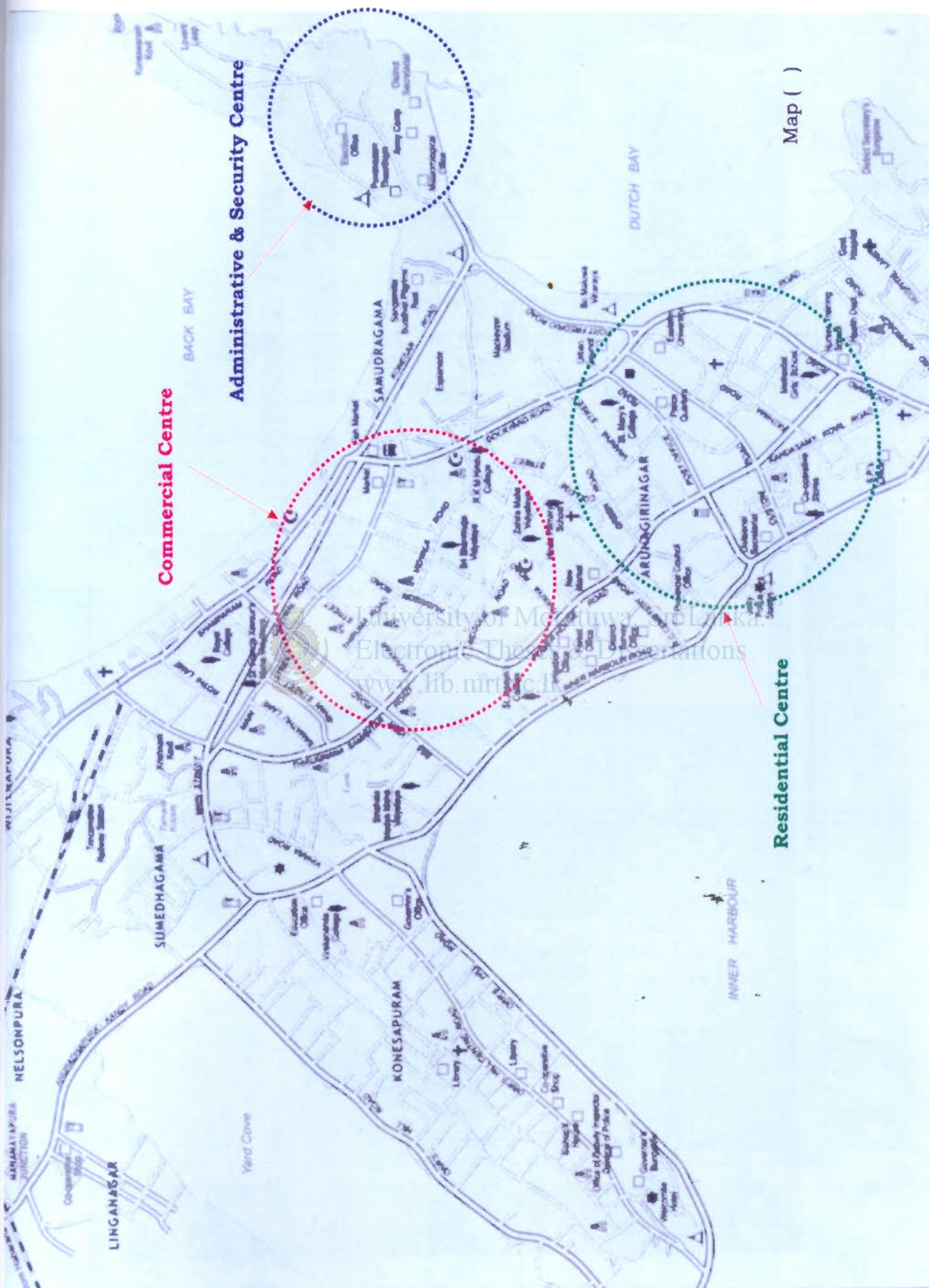


### LOCATION MAP OF TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT



### Annexure (3)





#### Annexure (4)