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for MMR-Heritage Conservation Society

DELINEATION AND RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

'C' WARD CITY LIMITS, MUMBAI.

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-HERITAGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Introduction to the Project

Name of the Project:

DELINEATION, LISTING AND GRADING OF THE HERITAGE PRECINCTS AND STRUCTURES OF THE TRADITIONAL MARKET AREA IN 'C'-WARD LIMIT OF MUMBAI.

C-Ward Limits of Mumbai

The area of the C-Ward spans over 1.78 Square kilometres (approximately 445 Acres) of a very dense settlement pattern in central Mumbai. The area constitutes of a series of diverse occupational, ethnic and social communities. This area also consists of a very high density of religious structures (arguably the highest in Mumbai).

Architectural and Heritage significance of the Project

The city of Mumbai being the commercial capital of the country boasts of many traditional market areas. The market area of the nineteenth century "native town" (presently in the 'C' ward of Municipal Corporation) has played a significant role in the development of the city. Merchants dealing in commodities and artisans engaged in a range of trades have settled in different parts of this area town, imparting a distinct identity to the cultures and subcultures in this area e.g. Bhoiwada & Rangari Chawl.

These market spaces are one of the most fortuitous examples of urban planning demarcated in the city. It exhibits an excellent example of a high-density built form (arguably the highest in the whole of Asia) with the maximum possible utilisation of the land available. The low-rise development maintains its unique identity also on account of the changing commercial activity patterns within the area.

Mixed land use with commercial development on the ground floor and a mix of residential and commercial spaces on the upper floors is a meaningful planning feature of this area. Buildings are organised in clusters and cohesive units, called wadis, comprising of central open courts and functional spaces around, enclosed by protective entrance gates.