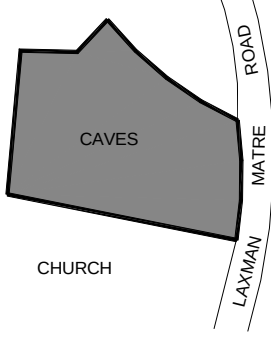


217		MANDAPESHWAR CAVES		
	COMMON REF NO	217		 Not to Scale
	CARD NO.	217		
	WARD	P (N)		
	CS NO.	NA		
	PRECINCT AREA	0.87 Ha		
	BU AREA	NA		
	DATE	03/ 12/ 2004		
	RECORDED BY	Bindu, Sejal		
	REVIEWED BY			
	INTERNAL Shirley Ballaney	EXTERNAL Miki Desai		
	PHOTO REFERENCE	217 PLATE A		
1.0 NAME OF THE PROPERTY				
1.1	NAME OF THE PRECINCT	Mandapeshwar Caves.		
1.2	EARLIER NAME	Mandapeshwar Caves.		
1.3	BUILT-IN	NA.	EXTENSION (if any): None.	
2.0 ACCESS				
2.1	MAIN	Laxman Matre Road, Borivali (W).		
2.2	SUBSIDIARY	None.		
3.0 OWNERSHIP PATTERN				
3.1	PRESENT/PAST	Archeological Survey of India.		
3.2	STATUS	Archeological Survey of India.		
4.0 USE				
4.1	PRESENT/PAST	Mixed – Religious, Recreational.		
5.0 SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE CLASSIFICATION				
5.1	DELINEATION	Laxman Matre Road provides access to the Mandapeshwar Caves. The Mandapeshwar Caves are 2 km north in a straight line from the Borivali Railway Station. The precinct is defined to encompass the Caves – on the west is the Laxman Matre Road, on the south is St. Francis Church, on the west is the St. Francis school and on the north are multi storeyed residential buildings. The total area is approximately 0.87 Ha.		
5.2	TOWNSCAPE / SETTLEMENT DESCRIPTION (NATURAL / MANMADE)	<u>Built Form, Street Pattern and Land Use</u> The Mandapeshwar Caves lie on the west side of the Laxman Matre Road. The Caves are completely surrounded by development all around and are not clearly visible from the road due to the bus stand and the auto stand, in the proximity. There is open space in front of the Caves.		
5.3	ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION	The temple / caves consisted of a central hall, 2 irregular aisles and a portico/vestibule at the north end. The east aisle is a verandah about 9' wide and the inside surface has 4 pillars and 2 pilasters, about 12' high. The pillars are plain, look slim, the surface of figured ornaments has been hidden by mud mortar while small figures of Parvati and Shiva can still be seen. Then comes the central hall that measures 23' by 50', has a channel 15' deep at the north end and is cut off by a railing on the south end. The western aisle is irregular and is just a passage about 4' wide. The west wall opens into three chambers. The southern chamber is entered by 2 steps via a plain opening and is about 9 square feet and 7' high. The Portuguese filled up the back wall and the original cave was deeper. The central chamber is entered by doorway and is about 15 square feet and 8' high. The north chamber is entered by 2 steps via a plain opening. The chamber in the center has a shivlinga. Just outside its door in the central hall is a small nandi and a small deep sthamb. The wall on the extreme left of the verandah has carvings of Shiva dancing the Tandava. Above on the right is the Vishnu on his bird carrier or Garud with attendants, and below are three worshippers, two men and a woman. Above is the Indra on his elephant, and below are seers and a male figure, perhaps the man who bore the expense for cutting the group.		
5.4	INTRINSIC	The Portuguese also knew Mandapeshwar as Montpezier or Monpacer or Mount Poincur. The Brahmanic caves here were turned into churches by the Portuguese. The Portuguese occupied Mandapeshwar some time in 1538, expelled the Hindu Yogis and defaced the paintings/sculptures on the caves wall. They built a wall in front of the cave and screened off or covered with plaster most of the Shiva sculpture although at some places, they did not damage it. The Portuguese priests also converted a lot of people to Christianity and educated the children of the converts. In 1760, after the Maratha conquest, the Portuguese churches and buildings were abandoned. The churches had some rich elements carved out in wood. The Marathas destroyed the buildings & took the wood to Thana. The rock cut temples, which were under the church, were uncovered and people started worshipping the deities.		
5.5	VALUE CLASSIFICATION	A (arc), A (his), A (cul), B (per), B (des)	RECOMMENDED GRADE	I
6.0 TOPOGRAPHY				
6.1	FLOORS	None.		

217		MANDAPESHWAR CAVES		
7.0 CONSTRUCTION				
7.1	PLINTH	None.		
7.2	WALLS	Stone (Rock cut).		
7.3	FLOOR	Stone (Rock cut).		
7.4	STAIRS	None.		
7.5	OPENINGS	Stone (Rock cut).		
7.6	ROOFING	Stone (Rock cut).		
7.7	ARTICULATION	NA.		
7.8	FINISHES	<u>Plinth</u> – NA. <u>Walls</u> – NA. <u>Flooring</u> – NA. <u>Roof</u> – NA.		
7.9	INTERIORS	NA.		
7.10	COMPOUND / FENCE/ GATE	There is no compound wall but it is defined by the level difference from the rest of the area around it.		
7.11	CURTILAGE / UNBUILT SPACE / LANDSCAPE OUTBUILDINGS	There is an open area in front of the caves. There are a few trees in the front.		
8.0 SERVICES & UTILITIES				
8.1	LIGHTING	Not Adequate.		
8.2	VENTILATION	Not Adequate.		
8.3	ELECTRICITY	None.		
8.4	WATER SUPPLY	None.		
8.5	DRAINAGE	None.		
8.6	FIRE PRECAUTION	None.		
8.7	HVAC/ BMS/ SECURITY SYS	None.		
9.0 CONDITION				
9.1	PLINTH	NA.		
9.2	WALLS	NA.		
9.3	FLOOR	NA.		
9.4	STAIRS	NA.		
9.5	OPENINGS	NA.		
9.6	ROOFING	NA.		
9.7	ARTICULATION & FINISHES	NA.		
9.8	SERVICES	NA.		
9.9	OUTBUILDINGS	NA.		
9.10	OVERALL CONDITION	Poor.	MAINTENANCE LEVEL	Not Maintained.
10.0 TRANSFORMATION				
10.1	FORM	None.		
10.2	STRUCTURE	None.		
10.3	ARTICULATION & FINISHES	None.		
11.0	DP REMARKS / PERCEIVED THREATS	The caves are under existing/public utilities zoning as per the Development Plan. The caves are not maintained at all. There is a need to prepare a Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Caves that take into account not only the actual caves but the surrounding area also.		
12.0	ADDITIONAL NOTES / DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE	Information is collected from various sources.		



FRONT VIEW



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE CAVES



CARVING DETAIL



DEFACED COLUMNADE AT THE ENTRANCE



DETAIL OF THE COLUMNS

