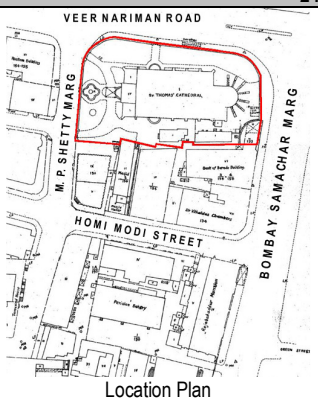
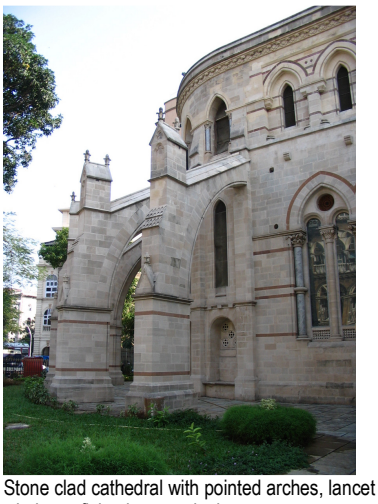
St. Thomas Cathedral			249
		Common Ref No: 249 Card No: 340 Ward (Part): A (Part II) CS No: 193 (Fort division) Plot Area: 89.97 sqm. B U Area: - Date: 04/11/2004 Recorded by: Zankhana Prajapati Reviewed by: Int: Arun Wadhwa, Zankhana Prajapati Ext: Arun Wadhwa, Zankhana Prajapati Photo Ref.: 249_St Thomas Cathedral	 Location Plan
1.0		**Denomination**	
1.1	Name of Premises	St. Thomas Cathedral	
1.2	Earlier Name	St. Thomas Cathedral	
1.3	Built in:	Commenced in 1672, Completed in 1718	Extension Date: -
2.0		**Access**	
2.1	Main	M. P. Shetty Marg	
2.2	Subsidiary	Veer Nariman Road	
3.0		**Ownership pattern**	
3.1	Present	Trust (Church of North India)	
3.2	Past	Trust	
3.3	Status	Owner	
4.0		**Use**	
4.1	Present	Religious	
4.2	Past	Religious	
4.3	Usage	Daily	
5.0		**Significance & Value Classification**	
5.1	Townscape (Manmade)	The high clock tower is symbolic and visible in the vicinity. Strategically located on the western edge of the Horniman Circle, the building forms a part of the vista on Veer Nariman Road	
5.2	Architectural Description	**Planning** The building has an elongated plan. The prayer hall comprises of a long nave flanked by a colonnade and aisle on both sides. Bema separates nave from apse where presently choir is situated. Apse is semi-circular in plan and is supported by flying buttress. **Features** Heavy massive columns on square bases form a colonnade along the nave with stone vaults springing from the columns. Flying buttresses form a unique feature supporting the apse. The pointed arches, ribbed vaults and groined vaults form the main character of the building. The backdrop behind the altar has a series of pointed arched windows with exquisite stain glasswork, gothic canopies, crockets and finials. Apse and bema is constructed in Porbunder stone. The pulpit is magnificently carved from marble and stone. Wooden baldachin at the left aisle serves as a mini chapel for special congregation. The clock tower, which serves, as a landmark is the oldest in the city. The space within the nave and the aisles is a very sacrosanct voluminous space. Column capitals within the apse are highly ornamental and the friezes have floral motifs. The entire wall is lined with marble sculptures. Ornamental metal brackets are used for hanging fan and light fixtures. The pulpit is a hexagonal base in green marble with statue and highly ornate decoration. Spires, finials of clock tower are of very ornate nature. **Style** The Cathedral derives influence from Gothic style with the apse is neo-gothic style and tower in Victorian Gothic Style.	
5.3	Intrinsic	Oldest surviving church in the city and representing earliest British church buildings in India. The Cathedral is the one of the few buildings with the flying buttress support in Mumbai.	
5.4	Value Classification	A(arc), A(his), B(per), B(des), B(uu), E, F, I(sce)	Recommended grade: I

6.0		**Topography**
6.1	Floors	Main Cathedral structure - G structure with mezanine, Bellfry and clock tower - G+
7.0		**Construction**
7.1	Plinth	Low height stone plinth
7.2	Walls	Stone load bearing walls, plastered with lime mortar, supported by stone buttresses
7.3	Floor	Floor above presbyter's room and storeroom is constructed of wooden rafters and planks whereas the 3 tiers of the clock tower are laid in brick in the form of a dome covered by timber flooring.
7.4	Stairs	Wooden curvilinear and L-shaped staircases leading to the storeroom and the floors in the clock tower are constructed in timber with wooden treads, risers, handrails and balusters.
7.5	Openings	Massive arched opening forming the entrance doorway with wooden double folding shutter and semicircular fixed stain glass panel on top. Subsidiary door openings on either side of the prayer hall are of double leaf folding shutters with semi-circular fixed glass on top. All window openings are large semi-circular arched openings, comprising of wooden louvered windows in 3 parts with a semi-circular fixed glass on top. The apse consists of three receding levels of pointed arch openings with topmost with exquisite stain glass. The bema has three pointed arched openings at a higher level for fixed glass There are numerous pointed arches, semi-circular arches, rose windows; stain glass panels and the entire façade is intercepted with detailed ornamentation.
7.6	Roofing	The roof above the prayer hall is of stone vault supported on heavy columns and sidewalls. The central vault has circular openings, which function as skylights. There is a vaulted roof above the presbyter's room and the storeroom. The bema has a groined vault and the apse has a ribbed vault made of Porbunder stone.
7.7	Articulation	Arched openings, stain glass work, rose windows, flying buttress, vaulted ceiling, clock tower with spires, bands
7.8	Finishes	The walls of the prayer hall, the ceiling and columns are finished with lime plaster. Buff coloured, finely dressed Porbunder stone used in the apse and the bema. Entrance lobby, presbyter's room and storeroom have Minton tiling. Central corridor of prayer hall is laid with marble and the remaining flooring is in black basalt stone. The apse and bema have marble flooring.
7.9	Interiors (Movable & Immovable)	**Movable** Ornate chairs of prayer hall and choir are made of old teakwood. Wood furniture like benches, reading ledge, and piano stand all form a significant part of the interiors of the Cathedral. Carved wooden baldachin and cathedra (bishop's chair). Storage cabinet on first floor contains all the record of marriage and baptism ceremony from the time cathedral is functioning. Shelves, bookrack, antique wood clock, cathedra, cupboards, and portraits of earlier bishops are all kept in the storeroom above presbyter's room. Lectern (eagle sculptor of brass) used as reading desk is a very ornamental metal piece. There are multiple ornamental replicas of crosses. **Immovable** Many marble inscriptions/tablets/medallions invaluable statuary forms the ornamentation of the interior of prayer hall. Marble statuary on the Sarcophagus, the coffin of Bombay's first priest. Intricately carved stone font at the left of the nave, which is used for baptism. Church has high box pews, each section allotted to different rank of people. Stain glass panel of three kings which is known as three-king altar. A cast iron bell and clock mechanism present in clock tower.
7.10	Compound/ Fence/ Gate	Entrance cast iron grilled gate with pillars, railing on a low stone base. Two gates on the western side, one gate located on northern side of the building.
7.11	Curtilage/ Unbuilt space/ Out Buildings/ Landscape	Southern side of cathedral has a single storey structure functioning as a nursery school, originally used as servant's quarters. Planters surround the building and line up along the compound wall with ornamental plants. Ornate fountain at the entrance donated by Cowasji Jehangir. Some very old trees are present on the northern side. An entire row of gravestones which are in memory of eminent personalities.
8.0		**Services & Utilities**
8.1	Lighting	Adequate natural light through large window opening and stain glass at apse, supplemented with artificial lighting
8.2	Ventilation	Adequate natural ventilation through louvered supplemented with artificial ventilation
8.3	Electricity	BEST
8.4	Water Supply	MCGM
8.5	Drainage (Plumbing & Sanitation)	MCGM
8.6	Fire Precaution	Fire extinguishers have been installed

8.7	Other (HVAC/BMS/Security Systems)	-
9.0		**Condition**
9.1	Plinth	Fair - restoration work has been carried out.
9.2	Walls	Fair - chipped plaster has been observed in clock tower.
9.3	Floor	Fair - superficial cracks have been observed at certain places. Cement grouting has been done in patches within basalt flooring. At places wooden planks are missing
9.4	Stairs	Fair - Staircase in clock tower has structurally deteriorated
9.5	Openings	Fair - Fixed glass panels have been added in front of all the stain glass. At some places stain glass have been broken replaced by other glass. Louvered windows are damaged at certain places. Rose window and pointed arch window are also in a bad condition.
9.6	Roofing	Fair - Peeling of plaster has been observed at places, stone masonry has been exposed. The brick domes in the clock tower are in bad condition
9.7	Articulation & Finishes	Fair - As the cathedral is under restoration, condition of all the articulation and finishes is good.
9.8	Services	Fair - extensive seepage in altar area and along its southern face has been observed. Severe damage to the masonry and invaluable marble statuary.
9.9	Out Buildings	Fair
9.10	Overall Conditions	Fair | Maintenance level | Fair
10.0		**Transformation**
	Form	Addition of an incongruous porch with a galvanized iron corrugated roof at the main entrance
	Structure	-
	Articulation & Finishes	Oil painting at dado level, which is detrimental to building's historical fabric. Flooring material has been changed at many places.
11.0		**DP Remarks/ Perceived Threats**
		Building forms part of C1 zone
12.0		**Additional Notes/ References/ Documents available**
		Additional Notes: The church was built during the Governorship of Charles Boone, who contributed a large part to its construction and donated the church bell. The stain glass is the original works by Charles Kemp and Henry Holiday, leading artists of their times. A restoration program is under way and is being conducted by an architectural firm Somaya and Kalappa St Thomas Cathedral, which was recently selected for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific heritage conservation award 2004. **References:** INTACH (1990) *Preliminary unedited listing of Unprotected Monuments, Buildings and Structures listed for Conservation*. SHARADA DWIVEDI and RAHUL MEHROTRA (2001) *The Cities Within*, Bombay: Eminence Designs Pvt. Ltd. RAHUL MEHROTRA, GUNTER NEST and SANDHYA SAVANT (1994) *The Fort Precinct in Bombay – Conserving an Image Centre*, 2 Vols, Bombay. FRANCIS D.K.CHING and VAN NOSTRAND REINHOLD *Visual dictionary of Architecture*, Division of International Thomson Publishing Inc. Eicher Goodearth Ltd. (2002) *City Map – Mumbai,* Mumbai. Christopher W London, *Bombay Gothic,* India Book HousePvt. Ltd. SHARADA DWIVEDI and RAHUL MEHROTRA (2001) *Fort Walks,* Bombay: Eminence Designs Pvt. Ltd. ABHA NARAIN LAMBAH *Through the Looking Glass – The Grade I Heritage of Mumbai,* Mumbai : Urban Design Research Institute, Jasubhai Media and Super Book House.



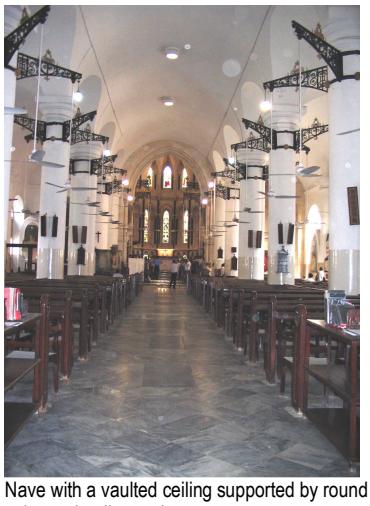
Stone clad cathedral with pointed arches, lancet windows, flying buttress in the apse area



Rising clock tower with rose window, pointed arched opening, belfry, turrets etc



Cathedra in wood



Nave with a vaulted ceiling supported by round columns leading to the apse



Detail of the pointed lancet windows, columns with decorative capitals, frieze band at sill level



Bema lancet window with pointed arched openings, round ventilator, bands, friezes



Ribbed vault detail in the apse area



Decorative tapering motif in stone with floral pattern



Sculpture in stone - 1



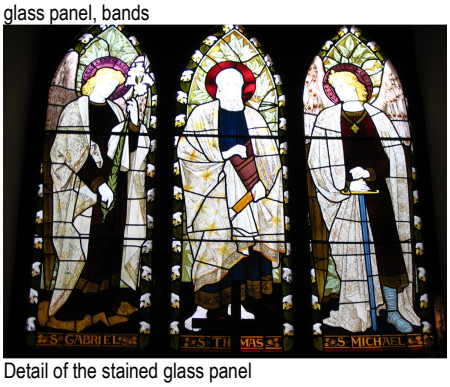
Sculpture in stone - 2



Apse with ribbed vault, pointed arch windows with stained glass panel, bands



Sarcophagus in marble with decorative frieze band and Plaque in the base



Detail of the stained glass panel