

4.8.1 Introduction

Archeology and historic site of town or city represents ancient history and development trend of that place. Shilpa Charjo Joynul Abeddin Songrohoshala, Boro Mosque, Zilla School, Biddamoyee School, Saint Jorge Girja, Surjokanta Hospital, Hasan Monjeel, Shoshi lodge, City Collegiate School, Shisu Academy, Anando Mohon College, Alexander Castle, Gouripur lodge, and Mymensingh Museum are the fourteen historical sites that have been surveyed.

4.8.2 Methodology

Historical heritage buildings in Mymensingh have been identified using location map of Mymensingh area. A location map of historical heritage in Mymensingh had been prepared by German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) in the year of 2010. The map indicates locations of heritage buildings in Mymensingh Area. Following directions in that map, location of historical heritage has been identified in Mymensingh area.

Primary data has used in this study and collected through pre-structured questionnaire survey. The present custodian authorities of those buildings have been surveyed for study's purpose. A location map of those sites is attached in the annex section.

4.8.3 Survey Findings

4.8.3.1 Available Sites

The most ancient site within this area is City Collegiate School, constructed by father of Ananda Mohon Basu (founder of Anando Mohan College) in the year of around 1600. Most of the historical site has been established by Maharaj Surjakanto Achrya in the end of 1800 and earlier 1900. Several historical sites have been established during British period.

Table 1: Basic information of Historical site

| Name of building | Year of construction | Name of Founder |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Boro Mosque | 1870 | Unknown |
| Zilla School | 1913 | British Administration |
| Biddyamoyee School | 1873 | Raza Jogot Kishor Acharjo |
| Saint Jorge Church | 1900 | British Administration |
| Surjokanta Hospital | 1818 | Jomidar Surjo Kanto |
| Hasan Monjeel | Unknown | Unknown |
| Shoshi Lodge | 1877 | Surjo Kanto acharjo |
| City Collegiate School | 1600 | Father of Anando Mohon Basu |

| Name of building | Year of construction | Name of Founder |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Shisu Academy | 1900 | Soshi Kanto Acharjo |
| Anando Mohon College | 1908 | Anondo Mohon |
| Alexander Castle | 1879 | Surjo Kanto acharjo |
| Gouripur Lodge | British Period | RamKrishno Rai Chowdhury |
| Mymensingh Museum | Unknown | Jomider Modon Babu |
| Shilpacharjo Joynul Abeddin Songrohoshala | Unknown | Unknown |

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.8.3.2 Current Use of Historical Sites

Buildings were constructed for residence, education, hospital, guest house etc. purposes mainly at that time. At present most of the buildings found to be used for different non-residential purposes. Historical sites are government properties and being leased to different authorities such as Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Education, and Dept. of Archeology etc. Those authorities are now the custodians to look after and take care of their respective buildings in use. Table 2 is showing present and previous use and maintenance authority of those historical sites.

Table 2: Present and previous use of historical site

| Name of building | Purpose of construction | Present use | Present Authority in use |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Boro Mosque | Religious | Religious | Mosque Committee |
| Zilla School | Education | Education | Ministry of Education |
| Biddamoyeae School | Bungalow/ Community center | Education | Deputy Commissioner |
| Sent Jorge Church | Religious | Religious | Church of Bangladesh |
| Surjokanta Hospital | Hospital | Hospital | Mymensingh Medical College |
| Hasan Monjeel | Residence | Diabetic Someti | Diabetic Someti |
| Shoshi Lodge | Residence | Teachers' Training College (Female) | Ministry of Education |
| City Collegiate School | Residence | Education | School authority |
| Shisu Academy | Dak-Bungalow | Shisu Academy | Deputy Commissioner |
| Anando Mohon College | Education | Education | Anondo Mohon College |

| | | | |
|---|------------|--|--------------------------|
| Alexander Castle | Bagan Bari | Library of Teachers' Training College (Male) | College authority |
| Gouripur Lodge Sonal Bank | Residence | Sonal Bank | Sonal Bank |
| Mymensingh Museum | Bagan Bari | Museum | Department of Archeology |
| Shilpacharjo Joynul Abeddin Songrohoshala | Unknown | Museum | Department of Archeology |

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.8.3.3 Present Condition

Though those buildings are under public administration or govt. authority, but nothing specific initiative has yet been taken for preservation, conservation or improvement. Those buildings have observed to be degrading day by day. Structural strength of some important historical establishments have deteriorated and turned into shaky. On the other hand, condition of Biddyamoyee School, Gouripur Lodge and shoshi Lodge is well and good. These three buildings have been designed and constructed by foreign experts with high design and construction materials standards. Figure 1 is displaying an overall condition of surveyed historical sites within the study area.

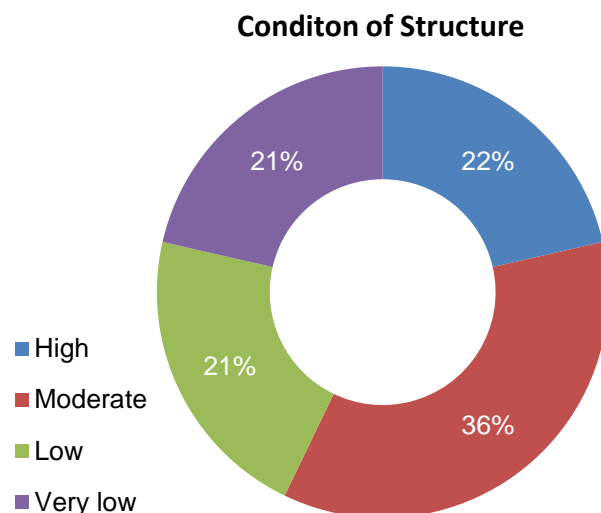


Figure 1: Present condition of Historical Buildings (Source: Field Survey, 2013)

Above figure displays that, condition of most of the buildings is moderate and its percentage is 36% of total buildings. 22% of total buildings condition found high. Low and very low

condition of buildings is a matter of concern for immediate preservation and conservation. For both condition (low and very low), percentage of building condition is 21% respectively.



Figure 2: Outlook of Gouripur Lodge



Figure 3: Outlook of Shoshi Lodge

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.8.3.4 Maintenance Status

Not many extensive maintenance and renovation works have done for conservation of those invaluable historical sites. Partial renovations have been done in the forms of repairing doors and winnows, plastering deteriorated part of wall and roof etc. Renovations of Shishu Academy and Surjakanto Hospital were conducted in 1999 and 1994 respectively. Table 3 shows details of renovation history of historical buildings.

Table 3: Last renovation (in year) of historical buildings

| Name of building | Previous Renovation (Year) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Boro Mosque | 2008 |
| Zilla School | 2012 |
| Biddamoyeae School | 2010-2011 |
| Sent Jorge Church | 2007 |
| Surjokanta Hospital | 1994 |
| Hasan Monjeel | 2011 |
| Shoshi Lodge | 2011 |
| City Collegiate School | 2013 |
| Shisu Academy | 1999 |
| Anando Mohon College | 2013 |
| Alexander Castle | 2010 |
| Gouripur Lodge Sonali Bank | 2007 |

| Name of building | Previous Renovation (Year) |
|---|----------------------------|
| Mymensingh Museum | 2011-12 |
| Shilpacharjo Joynul Abeddin Songrohoshala | Unknown |

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.8.4 Remarks

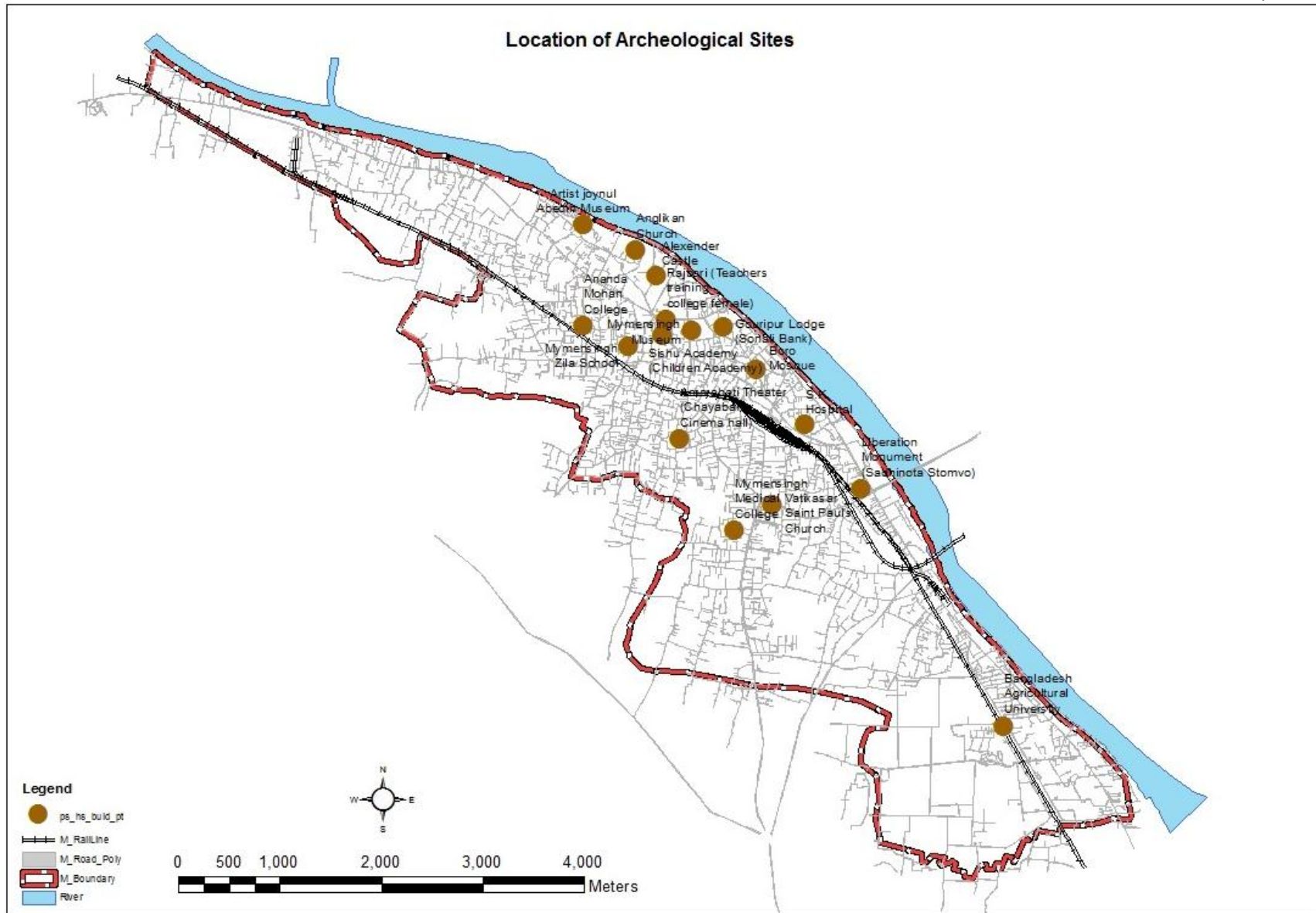
As the historical sites are being used by different Govt. authorities and institutions for education, health, bank and other purposes; so those are not allowed for visitors excepting Shilpacharya Joynul Abedin Shongrahashala and Mymensingh Museum. Shilpacharya Joynul Abedin Shongrahashala and Mymensingh Museum allow visitors to visit as Museum rather than as historical or archeological site.

4.8.5 Conclusion

Archeological sites in Mymensingh have been using as other purposes rather than heritage site. Different govt. authority is conducting their activity occupying those historical sites. In some cases, actual design of buildings has been modified. No effective initiatives have been taken for preservation and conservation of the historical places in Mymensingh. Not a single site has been allowed for visitors as heritage. Due to lack of maintenance, archeology and historical places in Mymensingh is losing its actual identity day by day.

Annex

- a. Map of archeological sites



Map 1: Location map of available archeological sites within Mymensingh municipal area