

HERITAGE OF SHIMLA



**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SHIMLA 171009 H.P**

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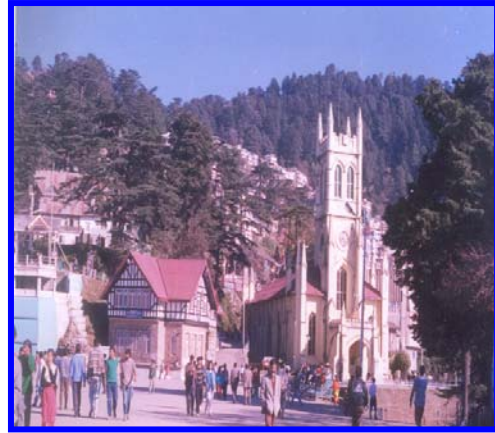
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HERITAGE OF SHIMLA

1. INTRODUCTION

Perceived and established by the British during colonial period in first half of 19th century as their Summer Capital, Shimla acquired global fame by the time they left in the year 1947. At the dawn of independence, Shimla was known as ‘**Capua of India**’, the Indian Mount Olympus, the Viceroy’s



“shooting box” “Home of the heaven born”, **The Ridge-Nucleus of Shimla** “abode of little tingods”. It was popularly known as **Jewel of Orient**”, **“Queen of Hill Stations”**, **“Star of Hill Resorts”** and **“Town of Dreams”**.

Located at a commanding site in the interior Himalayas, connected by road, rail and air, it has traditionally been a preferred destination for tourists from all over the world. Thousands of miles away from their mother land, amidst picturesque Himalayan environs, Shimla can be called ‘a Wonder of Colonial Era’.

The British established many architectural masterpieces such as Vice Regal Lodge, Gorton Castle, Railway Board Building, Gaiety Theatre, Town Hall, Auckland House, Ellerglie, Barnes Court, Bungalows, Churches and Challet Day School.

Shimla also has a building called



Snow-clad Mall and Buildings towards Western Side of Gaiety Theatre

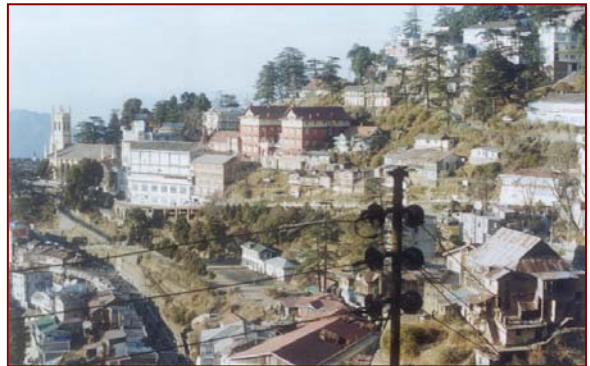
North Bank where in 1907 Nobel Laureate writer Rudyard Kipling lived in 1907. It was a dreamland of cool comfort in a very hot land, and full of promise of fun and frivolity. The 96.5 kilometre section of Kalka-Shimla railway line with 103 tunnels is an engineering feat and provides unique experience to those who travel by this historic route. It is the most spectacular narrow gauge railway line in the world. The city possesses distinct British heritage including institutional buildings, bungalows, churches, socio-cultural spaces, hotels, cemeteries, coffee houses, clubs, theatres, schools, hospitals, street pattern and street furniture, immensely add to grace of the city with their distinct expressions. The facades of buildings, sloping roofs, dormers, windows, doors, entrances and chimneys of numerous types replicated from European buildings leave an ever-lasting impact on one's mind and provide an opportunity to understand the Western saga of art and architecture. Shimla has become a multifunctional city alongwith dominance of tourism, administration and institutional activities. The Central Shimla, has got congested and crowded and requires meticulous approach to harness its potential, on one hand and to rehabilitate the spill-over functions suitably with public participation, on the other. In spite of carrying manifold constructions than the family requirements, people are still involved in horizontal and vertical expansion and thereby creation of more and more floor space. Ironically, about 30 to 40 percent floor space is presently lying idle. Shimla's lost glory has to be restored at any cost. This living model of meticulous planning, heritage, environment and development in consonance with ecological imperatives has to be preserved for posterity at any cost.

2. NOMENCLATURE

- 2.1. Shimla, prior to its development as a hill station was described as an “obscure village. The village was named ‘Shimla’ after the temple of Goddess Shyamala located in the village. In 1817, it was “a middling village”, where a fakir used to give water to the travelers. Another legend is that ‘ Shimla’ or ‘Simla’ is named as is pronounced by the hill people. According to Mr. W.H. Carrey the original

village of Shimla was situated on the ground lying to the east of present secretariat buildings, above the road leading to the Ripon hospital, and immediately below the Roman Catholic chapel, S. Michael's school, and the Court house.

- 2.2** Shimla, the Summer Capital of British India, is popularly known as ‘**Jewel of the Orient**’. Amidst the Central Himalayas, it is a charming hill resort for tourists from all over the globe. Ever established by the British on hill top, with unique urban design, it is known as ‘**Queen of Hill Stations**’. Shimla possesses distinct British heritage. During recent decades, after acquiring the status of state capital of Himachal Pradesh, it emerged as a major cultural, educational and institutional centre. Still considered as the star of India's hill resorts, Shimla is dominated by 19th Century colonial buildings.



Expanding Shimla over the Time

3. STORY OF GLORY.

- 3.1** Shimla town has a very interesting history of its origin, gradual growth and development. At the beginning of last century, Shimla was taken from the Jhind Rana in 1815 and given to the Patiala Raja for assistance rendered by him to the British in the Nepal War. Subsequently, it was used by the Raja for a sanatorium. It is said that the first person who brought Shimla to notice was a British officer, who, when moving Gurkha troops from Sabathu to Kotegarh in about 1816, passed through Shimla was impressed by its cool climate. It was a dense jungle infested with wild beasts. It is however, claimed by Mr. A. Wilson in his ‘Abode of Snow’ that the hill on which Shimla is situated was first made known by Gerard brothers. These two Scotch officers were engaged in the survey of the Sutlej valley. Their diary, dated August 30th, 1817, Shimla, a middling sized

village where a fakir is situated and gives water to travelers. They encamped on the side of Jakhu, and had a very extensive and beautiful view.

- 3.2 In 1819, Lt. Ross Assistant Political Agent in the Hill States built a cottage of wood and thatch. This was probably the first British House in Shimla. By 1824, invalids from the plains had been given permission to establish themselves in the locality on rent free sites provided by the Maharaja of Patiala and Rana of Keionthal. In 1825, a political agent, Major Kennedy constructed a permanent house on a rent free site. It was named as Kennedy House. In 1827, Lord Amherst, the then Governor General of India, after completing progress through North-West proceeded for the summer months to Shimla. This was the foundation of Shimla's Greatness. In 1828, Lord Combermere with his staff and the whole establishment of Army Head Quarters came upto Shimla. During his stay, he superintended the construction of a bridge known as 'Combermere Bridge' and also a fine broad level road about three miles in length around Mt. Jakhu. In 1829, a house named 'Bentick Castle' was built for the Governor General, Lord William Bentick. Later on, it was known as 'Pletti's Grand Hotel.'"
- 3.3 The movement of British Officers to Shimla in the summers became a regular phenomenon. This was perhaps the basic contributing factor to the evolution of "Shimla Village" into a proper town and its fame as a hill station and convalescent depot. Another factor that enhanced the popularity of Shimla was its health giving attribute- 'climate', which combined with every imaginable beauty of nature-terrain, natural vegetation, springs and streams presented a very homely atmosphere to the British. By 1831, Shimla had about sixty permanent houses and a bazaar. Communication between these was secured by well-formed narrow but quite safe communication routes. Following the example of British Officers, native chief also started visiting Shimla in the summers. An announcement regarding summer movement to Shimla reads-"should the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief come up next season, it will consist

of British subjects-200, and native 8000 and when the tributary chieftons and followers come in, it will be nearly 20,000. Again in winter, when but few remain, it will probably not exceed-British subject 20, natives-2000”. Despite the two distinctly different faces, one in summers and the other in winters, Shimla had achieved fame as a reputed hill station within a short span of time. Shimla during this period was accessible from Kalka by bridle path, passing through Kasauli, Kakkarhatti, Hurreepore and Syree covering 43 miles and entering the town at Boileauganj, one of the suburbs of Shimla. A distance of 43 miles up the hills from Kalka had to be accomplished in a two wheel cart drawn by a couple of ponies under the auspices of the ‘Mountain Car Company’. Jhampan and dandy were the other means of travel.

3.4 Despite of the difficulties of traveling over this track, the British used to visit Shimla every summer season like a flock of the faithful, to escape the scorching heat of the plains and to smoothen their home sick feelings and were considered “wise to surround themselves as far as they can with an English atmosphere”. By 1844, the number of houses in Shimla had risen to 100 as compared to 60 residences reported in 1831. Rapid growth led to necessity of providing amenities and services. Some of the social institutions through a central authority promoted the Municipal Committee at Shimla in 1851. The Committee was responsible for establishment of the Town Hall with a library, Gaiety Theatre, and Police Station. Municipal Market and Fire Brigade Services were also provided in subsequent years. Shimla was declared the Summer Capital of Indian Govt. in 1864. In the following years, the older, narrower track from Kalka to Shimla was improved. A new road named Grand Hindustan-Tibet road, 58 miles in length, passing through Dharampur, Solan and Kiaree Ghat was built.

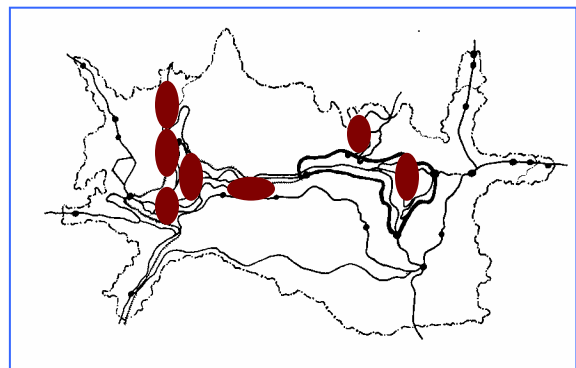
3.5 The emergence of Shimla as the Summer Capital also resulted in the acquisition of several old buildings by the Govt. for its offices. In addition, construction of new buildings was also started. A new Secretariat building, very close to the Mall was constructed on the site of Gorton Castle. In 1840, Peter Hoff became the

official residence of the Viceroy and remained so till 1888 when a new residence, Vice Regal Lodge was constructed.

3.6 In 1871, the Punjab Govt. also decided to use Shimla as its summer capital. In order to meet the water requirements of the much-increased population of the town, the Municipal Committee installed powerful water pumps in 1901 at Churat Nallah near Sanjauli, to lift up 200,000 gallons of water. In 1902, Walker Hospital was opened. Prior to it there was only one medical institution, Ripon Hospital, built in 1885. In 1903, the electrical lighting system was introduced in the town and the first place to benefit was the railway station. In 1904, the Kalka-Shimla railway line was commissioned to make the town easily and comfortably accessible. Shimla by now had grown considerably, mainly extending along the entire length of ridge, the extreme ends of town were separated by a distance of six miles. Limits of the town were bounded by the states of Patiala, Keionthal and Koti on the Northwest, Southwest and northeast respectively. In 1913, to meet the increased demands of water supply, two steam pumping engines were installed at Churat Nallah, supplying 150,000 gallons of water daily. Chaba electricity generating station was also installed on the Sutlej, to supply electricity to the town.

4. SETTING- A NATURAL BLESSING

Shimla, the Mountain City of India” located at 30° 6’N latitude, 77° 13’ E longitude and at 2100 metres above sea level, extends along a ridge and its several flanking spurs. The prominent relief features of Shimla town are- The Ridge, Elysium Hill (2257 m), Summer Hill (2070 m) Jakhu(2449 m), Pleasant (2160 m), Prospect Hill (2175 m), Observatory Hill (2135 m) and Annandale (1860 m).Majesty of Shimla



Seven Hills of Shimla

can be viewed from commanding sites alike Jakhu, Kamna Devi, Tara Devi, Parimahal Kamna Devi, Tara Devi, Parimahal and Elysium Hill . The site of Shimla is highly dissected by a number of seasonal insequent, obsequent and subsequent tributaries joining the consequent streams. Health giving attribute- ‘Climate’, which combined with every imaginable beauty of nature-terrain, natural vegetation, springs and streams presented a very homely atmosphere to the British. According to G.P. Thomas Simla was a “Good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and deoths, that spring out of the valleys”.

5. REFLECTION OF COLONIAL EXPRESSION

Ever established by the British on earth, amidst natural environs, at an altitude of 1400 metre to 2449 metre, in the Central Himalayas, Shimla has popularly been known as **‘British Jewel of the Orient’**. Alongwith its 6 kilometre long. The



Mall a pedestrian artery, the fascinating **Annadale Ground** buildings, constructed in Western style, interspersed by natural scenery and panoramic view of the Greater Himalayas as well as Lesser Himalayas make anybody spellbound. The Socio-cultural and recreational spaces including the Ridge, Scandal Point, ice skating rink, Annadale and Naldehra Golf Courses, clubs, theatres and coffee houses have made it one of the most enjoyable destination in the country. The 103 tunnel historic railway line alongwith numerous bridges and infatuating landscape along it, make the journey to Shimla ever-lasting memory for any visitor to the **‘Queen of hill Stations’**. The natural Scenery, embraced by the Deodars standing majestically on hill slopes of Shimla make it ‘City of Forests’, making indelible imprint on anybody’s mind. Sinuous street pattern of the city alongwith the Cart Road and Circular Road as its backbone, interconnecting the Mall at various places, make the city to work.

Dotted with spacious British bungalows, mostly on the higher altitudes, render a rare opportunity of having a feel of specific taste of the British for their distinct living style, by making them as homely as possible, at such a distant place from their homeland. Amongst the 80 urban settlements established at an altitude of 4000 to 8000 feet in India, Shimla having distinct environs, acquired status of ‘**Summer Capital of the Colonial India**’. Shimla is therefore, ‘**a Story of Old Glory**’. However, presently Shimla is witnessing unprecedented threats to its existence and call for stringent measures for continuum and preservation. Best of the wisdom is required on the part of community by ensuring inbuilt mechanism and culture to retain its character not only for the sake of its people, but also for the cause of tourism, heritage, environment and national and international pride of this premier city of the Colonial India as well as for the posterity.

6. JEWEL OF ORIENT

Shimla, **premier town of the British, one of the most sought after place** was frequently visited by them, due to its varied attractions. Amidst the Central Himalayan region, at a commanding location, it possessed magnificent environs. Its fascinating and

variable scenery, alongwith distant view of snow-clad Greater Himalayas throughout the year, made any body spellbound. Amidst the wonderful scenery , living in stylish bungalows, used to be a rare experience. The chill of weather alongwith thrill of amusement in clubs, socio-cultural spaces, theatres



and golf courses was an opportunity to **Vice Regal Lodge-A magnificent British Building** the visitors. Evergreen coniferous forests all around in its environs, provided it distinct ambience. Saga of its heritage along the Mall in British Shimla was a rare poetry of buildings , spaces and street pattern. Experience of the mall-along the ridge and slopes of Jakhu through the wooded Deodar forests alongwith fascinating buildings created

a distinct feeling. Shimla exhibited unique poetry of the Western creations along the Mall, the central east-west and north-south axis of the city. Shimla was considered wonderful habitat.

7. QUEEN OF HILL STATIONS

Popularly known as ‘**Mountain City of India**’, Shimla is located at an altitude of 2100 metre above mean sea level. The city extends along the east-west spinal axis extending on either side of the Ridge and several flanking spurs. It was planned and developed by the British on seven hills namely 2257 metre high Elysium Hill, 2070 metre Summer Hill, 2449 metre Jakhu Hill, 2160 metre Pleasant Hill, 2175 metre Prospect Hill, 2135 metre Observatory Hill and 1860 metre Annadale. Majesty of Shimla and its rare British heritage amidst the serene environs can be viewed from commanding sites of Jakhu- the crown of town, Kamna Devi, Tara Devi, Parimahal and Elysium Hill. The insequent, obsequent and subsequent tributaries joining consequent streams through wooded terrain, on one hand and deep gorges on the other, make Shimla more complex and difficult to be understood and interpreted which add to the mystery of this place. Health giving attribute- ‘climate, combined with every imaginable beauty of homely, atmosphere to the British, made it a place for recoument and enjoyment. According to G.P. Thomas Shimla was “ A Good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and deoths, that spring out of the valleys”. It makes an imprint on ones mind by virtue of reading about it, hearing its name and seeing its rare setting and masterpieces of art and architecture in it. This is the enchantment of natures generous bounty. The air is fresh, crisp and scented by the luxuriant forest wealth. It enters into blood and never leaves. Popularly known as ‘God of Timbers’ Deodar or Cedrus deodar forests are the pride of premier tourist city of Shimla.

8. INDELIBLE SPATIAL PLANNING IMPRESSION

Shimla town was planned and developed in accordance with its ecological imperatives by the British for living, work and play. Institutional, British

residential and tourist use on the top, commercial establishments along the middle contours and Indian residential down below was the general pattern of development. The community facilities like schools, hospitals, postal and other amenities were located amidst the said uses according to requirements. British bungalows were located on top of the ridges at commanding locations. Sinuous roads in between various uses and pockets of development were laid in accordance with the alignment of contours. These still hold their bearing to sustain the city traffic, in spite of long journey of the city through a mugged course of development, as the consumerism forces have played havoc with the city-scape during the post-statehood period- the last thirty years. The various pockets of thick development are interspersed by green cover and forests. The climate, vegetation, environment, heritage, landscape, streams, rivulets and grasslands, add to attractions of the City whereby it becomes most preferred destination of the tourists. There are unforgettable walks in the city. The colonial community thus left behind an indelible impact in the form of typical urban planning of Shimla.

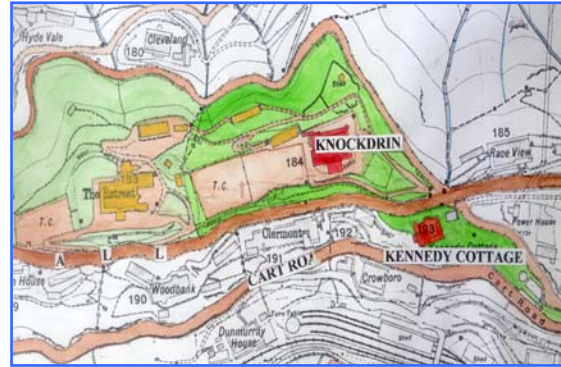
8.1 Ground Plans

British planned Shimla strictly in consonance with contours and levels of topography. All out-efforts have been made to orient the plans in such a fashion so that maximum sun is brought even inside the building.

The British took utmost care of the natural scenery and did not prefer to raise any construction against the view, vision and vista. Rectangular buildings on various levels, specious environs thereof and accessibility by roads and pedestrian paths were the essential features of the layouts of those days.

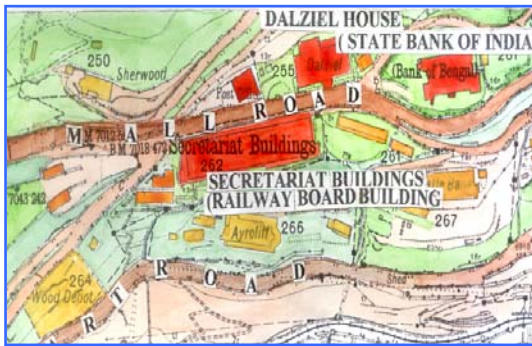


Layout of Vice Regal Lodge

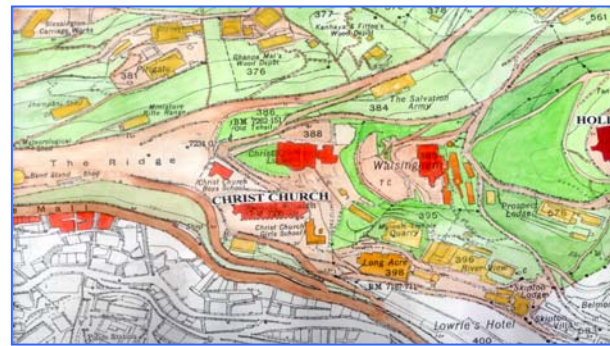


Layout of Chaura Maidan

Whereas, minimum natural profile has been disturbed for the development



Layout of Railway Board & SBI area

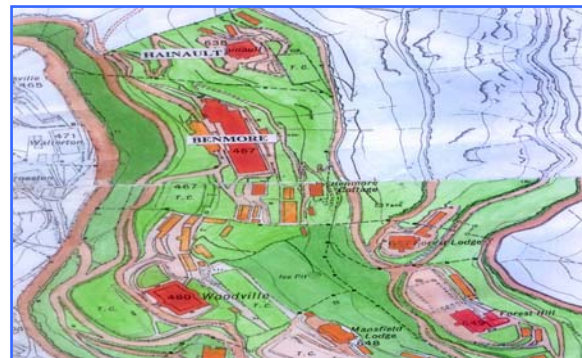


Layout of Ridge & Mall Road area

of bungalows and individual level requirements, the institutional buildings, major Roads, street pattern and socio-cultural spaces involved major earthwork to make the



Layout of U.S. Club Area



Layout of Benmore-Woodville area

space in order to create not only for requirements of British days but also for the generations to come.

8.2 Urban Form

The climate of the area and the need to make the urban structure as close to “home” as possible in building forms, resulted in architecture of 18th century England translated into India in the 20th century. These Tudor, Victorian and Edwardian style translations provided Shimla with a unique architectural cohesion and European look. The colonial imperial space concept is manifested in Bandstand, The Mall and pedestrian domination. Limitation of structural material and lack of innovative potential of British engineers provided Shimla with a rare architectural homogeneity. Vice Regal Lodge was the lone exception of a building made entirely of stone and slate roofing perhaps to set it apart for its importance. Life style was more suited to holiday spirit, than business of serious governance, as evidenced by chronicles of that period written by various authors. The Britishers were busy partying, horse racing and dancing. Thus government buildings had a domestic appearance with the monumentality, normally associated with public buildings.

9. TYPES OF HERITAGE:

Broadly Shimla has two types of heritage as under:-

(1) Natural Heritage

(2) Built Heritage

9.1. NATURAL HERITAGE

Natural vegetation caught the attention of some of the visitors. Prominent among these were the thick growths of Acer ablongum Ushan in Valley near Chhota Shimla. At Mt. Jakhu there are white oaks and rohododendron. The valley commencing at Elysium Hill is thriving with Pinus Excelsa. Several St. Helena weeping willows can be seen growing in and around Shimla. Himalayan Holly (ilax dipyrena) is much commoner in Shimla along the Mall on the northern side

of Jakhu. The elegant pines, stately deodars, large oaks, interspersed with hilly shrubs ‘gave an idea of looking over a gaudy carpet of scarlet and green’.

9.1.1 Green Belts:

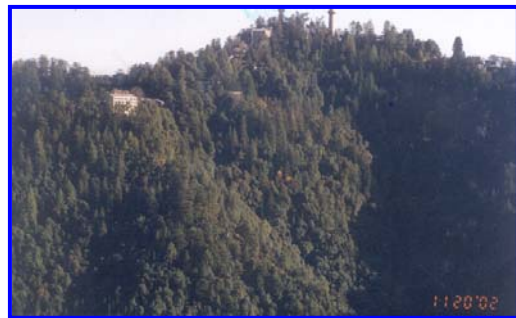
Vide Notification No. HIM/TP-RW-AZR/2000-III dated 11.8.2000, besides delineation of Core and Restricted Areas, all areas possessing substantial green cover, but not classified as forest, whether in public or private ownership were designated as Green Belts and only reconstruction on old lines, allowed therein.



The 17 green belts identified and notified vide notification No. HIM/TP- RW-AZR/2000-III dated 7.12. 2000 included Tutikandi Forest bounded by

Bye-pass and Cart road, Nabha Forest, **Green Belt in Bioleauganj area** Phagli-Lalpani Forest, Bemloe Forest, Himland Forest, Khalini- Chhota Shimla Forest, Chhota Shimla Forest above Cart road, Kasumpti Forest, Charlie Villa Forest, Forest between Himfed Petrol Pump and Secretariat, Jakhu Forest (3 portions), Bharari-Shankli-Ruldu Bhatta Forest, Summer Hill Forest and Area in between Boileauganj-Chaura Maidan known as Ellesium Hill.

Presently as per revenue records, the identified green belts in Shimla Planning Area spread over 414 hectares, out of which 78% area is either under forests or open area. Out of the remaining 22% area, 13% is built up and 9% under roads & paths. About 42% of the total green **Green Belt in Chaura Maidan area**



area is under forest cover and 36% is open area occupied by shrubs, bushes and grasslands. Out of this 150 hectares open area, 124 hectares is under Government ownership and just 26 hectares is in private ownership.

The green pockets are located either in Core or in Restricted Areas, wherein there is already heavy stress and strain with respect to services infrastructure and transportation, whereby there is inconvenience to already residing population. Thickly built up pockets amidst green areas namely Boileauganj, Tutikandi, Phagli, Lalpani, Himland locality, Dhobighat, Jakhoo, Bothwell Estate, Goodwood, Shankli, Ruldu-ka-Bhatta, Chaura Maidan and Ellesium Hill near Chaura Maidan are highly congested, facing severe infrastructural and environmental problems. An irreparable loss of green cover has already been caused by providing accessibility to such pockets. The prime green pockets on the higher altitude and on slopes, though form the crown of the town, already carried constructions thereon and in their immediate surroundings, however, look ugly and visually disturbing and same are disliked by the tourists. Adjoining to Green pockets, spread at several locations, on either side of cart road/ National Highway-22, Circular Road and Mall Road or in vicinity thereof, there is already inadequate width of the roads, a heavy traffic load, inadequate parking lots to cater even for present requirements and mixed traffic. The Core wherein many green pockets are situated, comprising of most of the Shimla, possess a precious natural and built heritage, requiring preservation at any cost. Cutting and filling activities in and around green pockets have already caused a lot of damage to precious coniferous Deodar green cover.

The natural setting of the premier city of Shimla has already been disturbed a lot, due to felling of trees, even by foul means, to give way for constructions. Any more construction in these areas will aggravate the threats to green cover. Excessive use of R.C.C. has already



damaged the eco-system to a large extent. **Expanding Shimla, encroaching green cover** Indiscriminate tapping of natural resources in terms of wood, and stone, construction of roads, has led to loss of scenic beauty of green cover in the city and its surroundings, which has been acting as a major tourist attraction, throughout the year. As majority of tourists visit Shimla for pleasure and site seeing, it is imperative that areas with predominant green cover are not at all allowed for construction activities. Furthermore green cover is required to be increased for the vital cause of environment and betterment of eco-system of future Shimla, at any cost. Geologically weak areas, identified as highly sinking prone areas, which include the northern slope of the Ridge extending upto Grand Hotel in the west, covering Lakkar Bazaar, Central School, upto Auckland Nursery School, Dhobi Ghat below Idgah electric sub-station and sliding areas, including Ladakhi Mohalla, the spur below the office of the Director of Education and surrounding areas of Clark's Hotel are also integral parts of green areas. Any further addition of load is likely to be hazardous in these areas. Shimla also falls in seismic Zone-IV, which is also susceptible for earthquakes.

Vertical buildings have led to manifold increase in pressure on land resources and added to traffic problems, besides they look ugly over hill slopes and are hated by the tourists, against the serene natural landscape and green cover.

The eco-tourism development approach based on natural preservation imperatives, recognized to be most suited for Shimla also call for utmost care in preservation of traditional green cover, on one hand and plantation of evergreen long lasting trees, on the other. Recognition and implementation of interface between tourism, heritage and environment is foremost requirement. Congested built up areas, traffic hazards, over-concentration of the central part, unauthorized constructions, land degradation, mixed landuse, lack of integration between place of work and place of living and mismatch between population and urban infrastructure development are the common problems of Shimla, which are

required to be tackled by restricting construction activities in central Shimla, including green areas, comprising of even the private ownerships.

9.2 BUILT HERITAGE

The various facets of built heritage are elaborated in the succeeding text.

9.2.1 The Mall- Rare Experience

With a languorous pace of activity-free from fear of being run over by vehicles, the Mall has a distinct personality of its own and is symbolic of the quintessential spirit of the colonial city.

The concept of Mall, borrowed from the west, meaning ‘a sheltered walk’ or ‘promenade’, generally bordered with trees clearly indicates its social function as the centre of interaction.

Starting from Boileauganj along Vice Regal Lodge (Indian Institute of Advanced Studies) and linking Peter Hoff, Cecil Hotel, Gorton Castle Building, Railway Building, State Bank of India, Telegraph Building, Town Hall, Gaiety Theatre, Clarkes Hotel, Chalet Day School Building, Oak Over and Post Office, it joins the Cart road at Chhota Shimla. The important commanding locations of the Mall from where view of high snow clad Greater Himalayas in the North and Outer Himalayas in the South is visible are namely University- Boileauganj road junction in front of Vice Regal Lodge, Chaura Maidan, Scandal Point and the Ridge. The 6.00 Km. Long Mall road walk, covered in about one and half hour, makes any body or tourist fully satisfied. The variable scenery throughout, comprising of lush green Deodars, Parks, Open Spaces, Heritage Buildings and Shopping Centre makes one spell-bound.

9.2.2 The Ridge-A Public Promenade

The Ridge, located in the centre, commands a glorious panoramic view of the town and the snow covered peaks of the Greater Himalayas. With Scandal Point in the West, Lakkar Bazar, Library and Chirst Church in the East, alongwith Town Hall and Goofa on the Southern side, the Ridge is a commanding site having unique view of distant Greater Himalayas. It is a place of congregation and socio-cultural space for National and State level events. Its width ranges from



The Ridge

10.00 metres to 40.00 metres. Whosoever visits Shimla, enjoys the stroll on the Ridge.

9.2.3 Kalka Shimla Railway Line-Engineering Feat

Through its length of 60 miles, it runs at places 7000 feet above the sea level. It runs through 103 tunnels and crosses 800 bridges. It took 3 years and one million pounds sterling were invested to complete. On November 9, 1903, Shimla was linked with outside world through railways.



Kalka-Shimla Rail Line

The 96.5 km. Kalka- Shimla Section of the Northern Railway is considered to be one of the most spectacular narrow gauge lines in the world. Built in 1903 by the

DLI-UMB-KLK Railway Company, Kalka-Shimla rail route was commissioned for service on January 1, 1906.

Connecting Kalka at an altitude of 56 metres with Shimla at 2075 metres, Rail route has 919 mind-boggling curves with sharpest curve being of 48 degrees. There are large number of bridges, longest one is No. 226 with a length of 112.14 metres. There are 103 tunnels, longest being 1143 metres. On declaration of this line as heritage railway line, a new feather has been added to heritage of premier city of Shimla.

9.2.3.1 Railway Station, Summerhill

When the Railway Line between Kalka and Shimla was commissioned in 1903, this was the first station from the direction of Shimla. Its importance lay in the fact that this was often used by the Viceroy and others who wished to go straight up to Viceregal Lodge without entering town. The structure has gabled roofs and decorative woodwork. Like other stations along the line, the block working is still by means of Neale's token instruments of signaling.

9.2.4 Crowns Over Town and Around

The British Shimla was spread upto Bharari in north-east, Sanjauli in east, Saint Witz in south-east, Kasumpti in south, Bishop Cotton School and Khalini in south-west, Boileauganj in the west, Summer-Hill in north-west and Kaithu-



Annadale in the north. With an area of **Town Hall in Central Square of Shimla** about 35 Square kilometre, British Shimla was dotted with various nodes of

development amidst natural ambience. Bara Shimla around the Ridge and Scandal point was the central hub. It possesses institutional and socio-cultural buildings including Municipal Corporation, Gaiety



Kaithu-Annadale in the north. With an area of about 35 Square kilometre, British, **Cecil Hotel -As Approved**

Shimla was dotted with various nodes of development amidst natural ambience. Bara Shimla around the Ridge and Scandal point was the central hub. It possesses institutional and socio-cultural buildings including Municipal Corporation, Gaiety Theatre, Bazaars, hotels, coffee houses, bus stand, Western Command, cinema halls and Skating Rink. In the vicinity of Bara Shimla, there is Gorton Castle- Railway Board building, Vidhan Sabha and State Bank of India building complex along the Mall towards its west. Towards east of Bara Shimla, there is U.S. Club complex, the Chalet Day School, High Court and coniferous Deodar forest area. On the western extreme there is Vice Regal Lodge- the residence of Viceroy and in its vicinity Boileauganj Bazaar and a few bungalows and Summer Hill. Amidst Bara Shimla & Vice Regal Lodge there is Cecil Hotel complex and Sanatorium at haura Maidan.

Whereas, Nabha alongwith Palace of Maharaja Patiala and Railway Station is located on southern slope, Kaithu alongwith a few bungalows and Golf Course of Naldehra is located on the northern face. Alongwith schools of Auckland and



Chapslee, there are many bungalows towards **Cecil Hotel - As Existing** Bharari. The hospitals of Snowden and Walker are located towards north-east. The Chhota Shimla complex comprises of Secretariat, **bazaar** and bungalows around. Down below was the Bishop Cotton residential School complex. Besides Wild Flower Hall, there were many bungalows amidst woodlands and forests towards the east of Shimla. Eighteen hole Naldehra Golf Course provided unique setting to golfers. Old cemeteries hold their past. The masterpieces in these complexes express their saga of planning and development which is a feast to the eyes. Jakhoo is known as **fountain head of the city**. It is a vantage point for

witnessing the changing skyline as the sun rises and sets. The summit is crowned with a temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman.

9.2.5 Symmetry in variety

Shimla is ‘a city of symmetry in variety’. Ground plans of the buildings and complexes exhibit placement of structures in consonance with contours and character of the various areas.



Bringing maximum sun inside, on one **Railway Board Bhawan- A Framed Structure** hand and orienting the buildings in view of scenic beauty, on the other were the salient points given foremost attention. View, vision and vista were taken care of during the course of planning, detailing and assigning the minute architectural details, so that the symmetry is fully maintained. There is replication of roads parallel to the Mall namely Circular Road, Cart Road and Ridge-U.S.Club-Saint witz road. Similarly, roads follow the spurs and ridges branching out from the central axis. Variety of roofs, facades, doors, windows, chimneys and dormers exhibit a great deal of variety, yet they have symmetry in their style. Generally, all these features taper towards upper side and express their grandeur and unifying criteria with the almighty, the all powerful and pervading force. All the buildings and features are in harmony with the nature. Shimla in snow becomes an unique chemistry of its symmetry. Varied shapes and sizes of buildings and their parts add to their grace and impression. ‘Small is beautiful’ rightly apply to structures like Bantony, Municipal library and Summer Hill Railway Station. Shimla is ‘**Unique Saga of Perception**’ of the British, their love and taste to art, architecture and nature. There has been no difference in perception and practice. Whatever was conceived, approved and decided, the same was truly reflected on the ground.

9.2.6 Bazaars

The economic services and infrastructural facilities were provided by an institution that was indigenous in name as well as physical form, the 'bazaar'. In response to the demands for commodities and services by the colonial community the economic institution 'bazaar' came up. The 'bazaar' for the colonial community represented many things as a functional and a morphological unit, as an area of vice, physical and social disease. According to A.D. King the 'bazaar' was established over, "any land in a cantonment which has been set apart for the purposes of trade or the residence of natives or any other purposes and the boundaries of which have been demarcated by pillars or posts....under the authority of the General Officer of the Command. Insulated from the teeming bazaar and cushioned from the chaos and squalor of the native life, the British created a wholly separate existence," but with strong functional links with the 'bazaar'.

The traders used to move up in the summer season following the European community as a part of the annual exodus from the plains. Subsequently, these traders settled permanently in the hill towns and the 'bazaar' came up as a permanent feature. The morphological attributes of the 'bazaar' reflect impact of patronage of the colonial community.

Day to day retailing and market activity was provided by the indigenous population, the 'native bazaar' being generally out of sight, lower in elevation than 'The Mall'. Other European stores catered for the particular dietary requirements of the colonial inhabitants and in larger hill stations, major retailers from the principal urban centers on lower elevation such as tailors, photographers or caterers found it worthwhile to have branches there.

The two main bazaars of Simla are often mentioned by different authors, as the Upper Bazaar of being typically English in style and very distinct from the native

Bazaar of Chhota Simla, where according to Kipling “if a man knows his way, can defy all the police of India’s summer capital, so cunningly does verandah communicate with verandah, alley way with alley way”.

As most of the shops along the Mall are uniformly of double storey heights with gabled roofs in timber framed construction, an integrated streetscape is established. The static and unwritten architecture control imparts to the street a harmonious and rhythmic spatial character-punctuated by the mélange of palpable crowds. Here the street architecture has a direct interaction with the shoppers and creates a social dialogue.

9.2.7 HERITAGE BUILDINGS

9.2.7.1 Government Buildings:

The Vice Regal Lodge is a masterpiece of British Architecture and Heritage. The Gorton Castle (A.G. Building) at a commanding site is a jewel of Architectural manifestation. The Railway Board Building, alongwith overwhelming use of iron pipes in its façade, is distinct in the style. The Town Hall has unique façade and a saga of British Heritage. The Telegraph building has simple and elegant style. The Western Command Building on slope in vicinity of the Mall is an attractive complex. The Bantony (Old Police Headquarter Building) is a rare poetry of roof-scape and façade alongwith attractive windows, doors and columns. The two storeyed Y.W.C.A. Building has an impressive façade. The State Bank of India Building is beautiful and well-proportioned. The Library Building on the Ridge is a rare architectural feast to heritage lovers.

The INTACH has identified 329 Heritage building (Annexure I). Out of these buildings which fall in heritage zone have already been notified for regulatory control purposes. How ever, those which are located outside the heritage zone are

required to be notified. The historical perspective of planning, development and construction of major buildings and masterpieces is as under: -

(i) The Vice Regal Lodge

The site for Viceregal Lodge was selected by Lord Lytton, the British Viceroy of India during 1876-1880. The building was constructed during the Viceroyalty of Lord Dufferin during 1884-1888. The Architect Henry Irwin of the Building was associated by Executive Engineers F.B. Hebbest and L.M. St. Clair. Built in Neo-gothic style of



architecture, the building has 123 Acres **The Facades of Vice Regal Lodge** area of its complex. Elements of Scottish Baronial Architecture are also visible in the building Including light blue-grey stone masonry with tiled pitch roofing. The main block has three storeys and the kitchen wing has five. A tower strikes above rest of the structure and its height was increased during the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon during 1899-1905. In Lord Irwin's time, a public entry wing was added in 1927. The interior has remarkable woodwork. It was first building with electric lighting in Shimla.

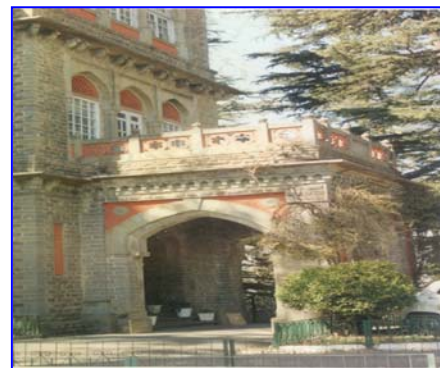
Several momentous decisions were taken in this building. This was the venue of the Shimla Conference in 1945. In 1947, the decision of partition of India and to carve out West Pakistan and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), was taken here.

After Independence in 1947, the building became the property of the President of India and was renamed Rashtra-Pati Niwas. Now it houses the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies.

(ii) Gorton Castle

Gorton Castle was constructed in neo-Gothic style of architecture during November, 1901 to May, 1904. One of the most striking building of the British empire, it was built at a cost of Rs.14,02,258/- designed by the famous S.S. Jacob K.C.I.E., detailed design and construction of the building was carried in the supervision of Major H. F. Chesney R.E. Executive Engineer. It was

Civil Secretariat of the Imperial Government of India and housed legislative, Land, Education, Health and Finance departments. This three storeyed building with about 125 small and big rooms became seat of the Accountant General in 1947. Presently, it houses offices of the Accountant



General of Himachal Pradesh. One of **Porch & Entrance of Gorton Castle** the floor of this building was paved with rosewood like timber blocks, brought from the Andaman Islands by B. Ribbentrop, Head of the Forest department.

(iii) Railway Board Building

Built in 1896-97, at a cost of Rs.7,31,551/-only, this unique colonial style cast iron and steel structure was fabricated by Bombay based Richardson and Cruddas firm. Once it held offices of Railway Board and Department of commerce, of the Government. This was designed to be structurally fire resistant



and was not effected during fire which **Façade of Railway Board Building** broke on 10th Feb. 2001. Besides Railway Board Building, the famous Raffles Hotel in Singapore is only such building in South Asia. The building has four floors with height varying from 11.00 metres to 15.50 metres the Mall road side. Total height of the building is 25.00 metres including three basements. The building was originally designated as the ‘Public Works Department Secretariat office. Now the building is housing various Central and State Government offices.

(iv) Town Hall

Town Hall- a nerve centre of Shimla town, is a sober but architecturally magnificent building. It is the best example of imperial planning of Central city. This was not only built at a central place but on also a commanding ridge, in such a manner so as to create large open spaces all around. The Town Hall of Shimla was built on



Town Hall

confluence of ground of Ridge and the Mall. This complex is housing Municipal offices, Ball & Supper Room, Free-mason’s Hall, Library & Reading rooms and the Gaiety Theatre and was built in 1860. It was built in stone and timber with slanting state roofing. Glass windows were fitted on various sides, so as to get maximum sunlight. Façade of Town Hall towards Scandal Point, represents European Character of the building. Arrangement of fire places in every room makes it warm during winters.

(v) General Post Office Building

General Post Office, Shimla is the oldest post office of Northern India. Its building was constructed during 1882 at a cost of Rs. 1,12,500/- only on the estate having 1810 Sqm. area. The building was known as Conny



Cottage. It was purchased from Mr. Peterson, **General Post Office** Manager of the Shimla Bank, in 1883. Mr. F. Dalton is believed to have been its first Post master. According to records of GPO, Mr. L.G. Pigott was the last English Post master till December, 1946 and Mr. A.K. Hazari was the first Post master of Indian Origin in 1947. Prior to acquisition for Post Office, the building had shops of European tailors like Enjalbat & Co. and Connts & Co. This three-storeyed mainly wooden structure is a nice example of English hill architecture. Before the establishment of rail or road links with Shimla, mail was sent through a special “dak gari” from Ambala to Kalka. It was further transported by postal employees using horses, ponies and even elephants. The overseers, who were to reach Shimla via Subathu, were adequately armed against wild animals by the white Sahibs, who used to wait impatiently for their dak, most of which came from abroad. Now by computerization, the oldest Post Office has been made modernized.

(vi) Telegraph Office Building (Telephone Exchange)

The historic telephone exchange building, popularly known as CTO building, is situated on The Mall near Scandel Point, is one of the oldest buildings of Shimla. Built during 1880's, when the site was acquired and a wooden structure was built



in Swiss Bavarian style of architecture **Telephone Exchange Building** architecture in 1885. Initially it housed the Station Library and later on the Telegraph Office was shifted here in 1913-14. On increase of Telegraphy work, the wooden structure was found inadequate and demolished and the present structure was built and completed in 1921 at a cost of Rs. Nine lac. In the original design, it was proposed to build the entire structure in ashlar worked stone (the stone measured and dressed to be placed in pre-fix position). Due to the economy required during the first world war, only the lower section of the building was done in this style and the upper portion was completed in brick

work. It was also proposed to have two towers on upper portion and these were also eliminated in the design due to the expense involved. The design of the building is seismic resistant and most of the construction was directed by one of Shimla's leading Engineer Jason Begg. A small corner stone on lower section of the building carries an inscription which is still visible. The inscription is in Latin and translates "Many men erected the stone work of this building. The work was directed by J. Begg".

The building has witnessed the telecom revolution in India, as it has housed various art technologies during the century. First Indian and one of the first automatic exchanges (Pre-2000 type Strowger exchange) in the South East Asia was installed in this building in 1922. Strowger exchange was installed in 1951. In addition to the automatic Telephone Exchange and Telegraph Department, the building now houses the Satellite Communication Centre, a Small Meteorological Observatory and an emergency siren.

The prominent clock facing towards both sides of the Mall is a peculiar feature of this unique building. The conventional clock was later replaced with a digital one and subsequently with a mechanically driven clock with the traditional system of winding. The original clock worked on the pulse system and had been out of order for several years. The present clock is unique, as it runs with a weight of 90 kg which is wound through the levers.

(vii) Ellerglie

The site Ellerglie Building (Himachal Pradesh Secretariat) was purchased for Rs. 18,123/-only in March, 1881. It was constructed after dismantling an old building of the same name that housed the Military Department of Punjab Government till 1886.



Ellerglie Building

Lt. Col. H.E.S. Abbott who designed the building to accommodate the whole of the Punjab Secretariat, sought permission for construction from the then Secretary of the Municipal Committee Major W.P. Larion. The permission was granted on 28th June, 1899. Built during 1901-02, at a cost of Rs. 3,47,824/-, the building has 4.66 Acres area of its complex. The inside of Ellerglie is made of stones quarried from Sanjauli and Raj Bhawan and struck together using lime mortar. The brickwork too has lime mortar cementing.

The H.P. Secretariat occupied it in the summer of 1967. Dr. Y .S. Parmar was the first Chief Minister and Major M .C. Sharma the 12th Chief Secretary of the State respectively. In July 1972, the “Summit Hall” where the Cabinet Meetings are held these days was renovated and given this name on the basis of initial summit meetings for Shimla Agreement held therein between India and Pakistan. The offices of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary were extended during 1990s. This building with sub-basement, basement and three floors, has 143 rooms.

(viii) Barnes Court (Raj Bhawan)

Lord Edward Barnes, the then Commander-in-Chief, purchased the property of Building during year 1828 for Rs. 14,500/- only. Earlier it was a single storey structure with slate roofing on the top. The new structure was built during 1879-1886 at a cost of Rs, 3,02,257/-. This two storeyed beautiful building, constructed with ‘dhajji’ walls and excellent interior teak wood work is master piece of British colonial architecture. It has a master bed room with 2 bath rooms. These are 13 other rooms, a big balcony with wooden dancing room, a drawing room, main dining hall, a personal dining hall, personal sitting room with small kitchen and a pantry. The main kitchen is outside the building connected through a staircase with the main pantry and dining room.



Barnes Court

There is also a billiard room. The building has 46.04 acres area of its complex. Location and Orientation of the building is such that every nook & corner of the building get fresh air and sunlight from morning to evening.

It acted as summer Raj-Bhawan of Punjab upto 1966. After reorganization, when Shimla was allotted to H.P., it was converted into a State Guest House. In the late seventies it was converted into a State Guest House-cum-Tourist Bungalow for some time.

In August, 1972, after the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, Shimla Agreement was signed by Smt. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the then Prime Ministers of two countries . The main drawing room alongwith its table and chairs on which “Shimla Agreement” was signed have been preserved.

As Peter Hoff was gutted in fire in 1981,Raj Bhawan housed therein was shifted to this building. On reconstruction of Peter Hoff., Raj-Bhawan was shifted to its new building in 1993. However, as it was too spacious for Raj Bhawan, it was again shifted back to Barnes Court building.

In the year 1994, a fire escape stair case and a lift were added to the building preserving its heritage. Surroundings of building were renovated and Anarkali type railing provided to it. With four lawns and a terrace garden, there is a grove of a faithful dog who served his masters for 12 years, on eastern side of building below cedar trees.

(ix) Grindlay’s Bank Building

Erected in 1920’s, the well proportioned Grindlay’s Bank building is an example of British Colonial Architecture. In core of the city, it is specimen of finest art and



architecture in its simplicity. Built in **Grindlay's Bank Building** smooth and plain exposure with stone, it is unique. The present building is situated on the site of original bank building. Located at the Scandal Point, it gives soothing effect to the tourist and is quite pleasing.

(x) Post Office – Chaura Maidan

Taking their cue from the General Post Office, the architecture of all the sub post offices in Shimla was done with exposed timber in the neo-Tudor fashion. This one uses half-round dressed stone and pebble-dash walls with wooden beams and was built in 1910.

(xi) Carton House

Carton House was originally a guest house till Dr. H. C. Menkel shifted the 'Simla Sanitarium and Hospital', along with the chapel of the Seventh Day Adventists from Belvedere in the Lakkar Bazaar area to these premises in the 1940s. It was basically a hydro and spa till Dr. I. R. Bazliel took over the premises in 1949 and modified this building of brick and dhajji, lath and plaster to serve as a hospital.

(xii) Clermont (Labour Beureu Office)

Built in its present form in 1927-28 in a combination of stone set in mud and of 'dhajji', lath and plaster, the original purpose of this structure was to house the offices of the Inspector General, Imperial Service Troops and the Inspector General of Explosives in India. This then became the offices of the Director Frontier Circle and the Director General of the Survey of India. At various times this building has also held the offices of the Central Board of Revenue, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, the Ex-Services Association, India and the Department of Industries and Labour.

(xiii) Race View

This building probably derived its name from its view of Annandale – which was the site of gymkhanas, fancy dress parties, polo, cricket and football matches and,

horse races. An example of the utilisation of a difficult site, access has been provided at its various levels. The building is built in a combination of stone set in mud and of 'dhajji', lath and plaster. In the 1920s this held the establishments of the Superintending Engineers, Shimla East and West Divisions.

(xiv) Council Chamber(Vidhan Sabha)

Before the Independence of India in 1947, this structure served as the Legislative Assembly Chamber of India. Built partially of white stone quarried in the area and largely of baked brick set in lime, and with rough cast walls, this was designed by a Mr. W. George of Delhi. Most of the construction took place in 1923-24 and the Chamber was opened by the Viceroy, Lord Reading on 20 August 1925.

This site was originally occupied by two houses named 'Kennedy Lodge' and 'Alloa Cottage'. The creation of this building was a direct result of the Montagu – Chelmsford ('Montford') constitutional reforms that were announced in 1919 and the need was felt for a larger premises to house the expanded Legislative Assembly of India .

After Independence, this served various functions – including housing various offices of the Punjab Government. In 1956, the wooden house 'The Valentines', renamed Himachal Dham, housing the Government of Himachal Pradesh burnt down and its offices were shifted here - and for a while, the studios of All Indian Radio were also located in a section of this building.

Today, this serves as the Vidhan Sabha - Assembly of Legislators - of Himachal Pradesh who held their first session here on 1 October 1963.

(xv) State Bank Of India(Dalziel House)

“ ... it is impossible to describe the delicious feeling of awaking at Simla for the first time, and looking out ...” was what Captain George Powell Thomas had to say in 1847 when he stayed at ‘Dalzell House’ that then stood here.

This was of one the earliest houses to be built in Shimla, and belonged to Captain H. B. Dalzell. For unknown reasons, the spelling was later changed to Dalziel and in 1907, the property was purchased by the Bank of Bengal and the present neo-Tudor structure which is marked by exposed woodwork and pebble-dash walls, constructed. In 1924, this became the Imperial Bank of India and now, houses the State Bank of India.

(xvi) The Cedars (Circuit House And Rest House)

Of all the Swiss Bavarian style buildings that remain in Shimla, ‘The Cedars’ and the Punjab Circuit House are perhaps the best preserved and elements of Alpine architecture are marked in the brackets and decorative foliations.

This was once the property of the Maharajas of Patiala – and served as their Guest House. A section of the lands that formed the core of Shimla town, originally belonged to the erstwhile Patiala state.

(xvii) Crow Borough

This ‘Rest House’ of the Railways was rebuilt in 1921 and architecturally, this employs a combination of dressed-stone, brick masonry and wooden strap-work. Certain standard items of crockery used in yesteryears as well as typical fire-irons and other items of railway heritage are preserved in this building.

(xviii) Winter Field

Built with exposed timberwork in the Tudor fashion, this has long served as the offices of the Public Works Department and was rebuilt on the present lines after

a fire destroyed the building in the late nineteenth century. Additions to the structure in the pattern of the original façade have been made at later dates too.

(xix) YWCA

Constantia, the building that holds the Young Women's Christian Association rests on the site of one Shimla's earliest houses – and even vied for the position of being the first. In the early twentieth century, the property was owned by the Delhi and London Bank from whom it was purchased by the Government for housing the Meteorological Department. In 1907, it was decided by the Governor-General in Council to establish the YWCA in this position and work began on rebuilding the house which was done using lath and plaster, locally called the 'dhajji' style of construction. This was opened for residence on 22 October 1910 by Lady Minto who accompanied her husband, Viceroy of India, Earl Minto.

(xx) Walsingham (D.C. Residence)

For ages, 'Walsingham' has been the residence of Shimla's Deputy Commissioner. The name may be inspired from the sacred site in North Norfolk in the U.K It may also be conjectured that Shimla's 'Walsingham', owes its name to Sir Francis Walsingham (1530 - 1590), who rose to become the Secretary of State under Britain's Queen Elizabeth I. This made him one of the most powerful men of his time and he served as both a protector of the crown and realm. In Shimla's context, the role of the Deputy Commissioner under the colonial government, was not dissimilar. The house which is constructed in dhajji, lath and plaster was built before the mid 19th century and largely retains its original character.

(xxi) YMCA

The YMCA was established in Shimla in the early twentieth century and was briefly housed in St. Marks', near the State Bank of India. In phases, work on the present structure began in 1920, and in 1922 this could accommodate 60 people.

However, its construction using brick and wood joinery, continued till 1930. Apart from its facilities, this was a popular venue for debates, lectures and musical evenings.

(xxii) Thistle Bank

Built of brick and capped with GCI sheeting for its roof, ‘Thistle Bank’ is a good example of functional design that was adapted to hill requirements in terms of structure and orientation.

(xxiii) Benmore

The original house ‘Benmore’ was built around 1850 on a site granted to a Captain Simpson by Lord William Hay, Superintendent of Hill States. In 1863, this passed into the hands of Major Innes who sold it to Felix von Goldstein, a leading estate agent of Shimla. Several improvements were made to the property by Goldstein and as the property of his ‘Simla Rink Company, Limited’ this became a focus of the town’s social life – and it finds mention in the writings of Rudyard Kipling. In 1885, this was purchased by the Punjab Government who placed their offices in the main house while its Secretariat was being built at Chotta Shimla, and even after that, Benmore retained its role in housing various offices - and for several years the offices of the Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle were located here.

(xxiv) Jammu Castle

Located in the territory of the former princely state of Keonthal, Jammu Castle first served as a residence. When the state of Himachal came into being, this then became offices and court house of the district of Mahasu.

(xxv) Torney House

Occupied by various government officials and now the office of the Divisional Commissioner, this house is built of lath and plaster, 'dhajji'. In the 'dhajji' form of construction, the load-bearing wooden posts were set into shallow but stable foundations. The vertical members were then spanned by horizontal beams creating a wooden mesh. Within each square, normally about two feet by two, corner to corner wooden planks were fitted in a diagonal cross. The open space was filled in with stone held together by a mortar of clay, slaked lime or cement. This was then plastered over, completely on the inside and at times only partially on the exterior.

(xxvi) Green Gate

Green Gate was constructed of lath and plaster (locally called 'dhajji') in the first decade of the twentieth century and served as the residence of the Medical Officer till this began housing the Assistant Commissioner of the Shimla Municipal Corporation.

(xxvii) Police Station, Chotta Shimla

With exposed woodwork, the neo-Tudor structure of the Police Station, Simla East was built at the turn of the nineteenth century and may have initially served as a post and telegraph office before it was converted to its present use. The earliest 'First Information Report' was registered in this station on 23 May 1905.

(xxviii)Pari Mahal

Once a part of the territory of the former princely state of Keonthal, 'Pari Mahal', the "Palace of Fairies" or the "Enchanted Palace", belonged to the erstwhile rulers of Jubbal. Today, this houses the administrative wing of the State Health and Family Planning Welfare Training Centre that shifted here from Mondodhar in District Solan in 1979. For a while, just before this, this was the residence of the noted sitar maestro, Ustad Vilayat Khan.

(xxix) Offices of the Deputy Commissioner.

In the mid 19th century a house named Gaston Hall stood here – and was then renamed Rosna Hall. This was pulled down and its place taken by the Court of the Deputy Commissioner and his offices. The new stone and brick building also held the Court of the District Judge, the Small Cause Court, the Treasury, the offices of the District Superintendent of Police as well as other offices.

The position was specifically chosen due its proximity to the bazaar area. Architecturally, the building drew on England’s Norman baronial castles of the middle ages and these elements are marked in the main arch, the heavy stonework, the spiral stairways, the turrets and in the proportion of some of the windows.

9.2.7.2 SOCIO-CULTURAL BUILDINGS

The hill stations provided primarily for social and recreational activities. They had assembly rooms for dances and music, race courses ,libraries and theaters, while other features like promenades or piers promoted alfresco social interaction.

(i) Gaiety Theatre

Erected in 1887, it was the tallest 5 storey building of that period. The architect Henry Irwin, who designed the Viceregal Lodge, also designed the theatre building. It was inaugurated in the year 1988. A Source of entertainment for Anglo-Indian Society, it was first of its kind in Asia. In 1911,



Gaiety Theatre

as the structure was found to be unsafe, upper portion of the building was dismantled. Built in stone, with artistically shaped windows, doors, lintels and openings, it also possessed boxes, galleries, beautiful paintings and sculptures. Used as a stage for Shimla Amateur Dramatic

Club, it is an important cultural Venue.

(ii) U.S. Club

Built in 1930's, U.S. Club was meant for English military and civil officer. It had facilities like drinking, playing, dancing eating etc. Besides accommodating at least 70 members, it had an honour of hosting several vice-roys, Secretary Generals and top British Government officials. Erected amidst lush green Jakhu Hill on a relatively gentle terrain, the building provides a clear



U.S Club

shade of hill architecture. Large glass window on all sides provide good natural light to the building besides panoramic view of the lower Himalayas. It has big halls and high roof. There is wood work in floors. There are false wooden wall panels and ceilings. Construction with dressed stone along with timber frames and windows fitted with glass, it is an example of British Colonial Architecture.

Presently this complex is occupied by state Public Works and Irrigation-cum-Public Health departments. This area was cordoned with two artistic gates. Unfortunately one of these gates has been removed a few years back.

(iii) Municipal Corporation Library At Ridge

Important from cultural point of view, the building was constructed in 1860. Its location at



such a grandeur place with beautiful environs has made it an attraction for children and elderly people. It is designed with stone and timber, having sloping roof with wide large windows on various sides. In relation to attractive

Library Building

Ridge, it acts like a decoration piece, rich in its gothic architecture on a grant city Piazza.

(iv) Band Stand

Band Stand was erected on the Ridge by Kanwar Jiwan Dass of Jubbalpore in 1920, as resting place, where people could enjoy the scenic landscape of lower hills and snowclad Greater Himalayas far off. Later on, it was also used to enhance the fragrance of Ridge, with humming music of military bands, whereby the structure



acquired its fame. Band Stand was, therefore, related with socio-cultural life of the town and its esteemed society. Architecturally, with its circular base, having conical slate roof resting on wooden posts, the building is conspicuous and distinct-one. Thus, below lush green Jakhu hill on commanding site of the Ridge, Band Stand building looks like crown of the city. A few years back, the Band Stand building has converted into a restaurant, by the State Tourism Department.

9.2.7.3 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Socially important function of the hill station was to provide for the educational needs of the community. Children were boarded in schools over there, fashioned after metropolitan models. As parents, particularly mothers, moved up, to spend summer months with their off springs in the hills, such schools further supported the family- maintaining function of the hill station.

(i) Jesus Marry School

Located in Chelsea estate, Jesus Mary is the largest earlier educational institution of Shimla. It was place of congregation 'for Nums' of Jesus and Marry. There was also the St. Francis military orphanage, St. Aloysius High School and St. Bede's Training College. Established in 1864, the School was first founded as an orphanage for the children of British soldiers. A small monthly stipend given to orphans by the military helped towards their up-keep and education. Mother St. Lewis Gonzaga was the first superior. In 1869 with the financial help given to the sister, the school was enlarged to accommodate 155 pupils. In 1873 the 'Chelsea' Chapel was built which flourished.

During 1880-1890 military service regulations, reduced the stay of regiments in India to few years and as a consequence the number of orphans began to dwindle. With the changed conditions came the demand for a boarding school for the daughters of officials stationed in all parts of the country. St. Aloysius School met this need and for the next 50 years the two schools worked side by side till their amalgamation in 1941.

Due to special emphasis given to the teaching of Indian History and Indian Language, an increased enrolment was witnessed in the school during 1941-1945. But as negotiations for independence gathered momentum, British officials made plans to leave the country and the school again faced period of transition.



Jesus Marry School

In April, 1946 a devastating fire destroyed most of Chelsea and claimed the life of a ten years old girl and loss of Rs. 10.00 lacs. With the generous support of the Archbishop of Delhi-Shimla, the spontaneous response of the civil and Military Authorities and help rendered by convents and ex-pupils, the school was re-opened within a fortnight of the disaster.

Founded in 1904 by Rev. Mother St. clare for the training of teacher, the St. Bedes College forms an integral part of the complex and has been imparting education to students for the BA Degree since 1947.

Built in remarkable stone and wood work, the old main building i.e. ‘Chelsea’ alongwith Eagle mountain house beautifully combines space with its functionality.

(ii) Chapslee

Earlier known as Secretary’s Lodge, Chapslee is one of the oldest houses to have been built in Shimla in between 1828 and 1835, by Dr. Blake, a surgeon in the service of the East India Company. Lord Auckland, Governor General of the East India Company Territories, took this property first on rent and later purchased it in 1836, to house his private & Military Secretaries, ‘Aides De Camps’ (ADC’s) and named it ‘Secretary’s Lodge’. The ‘Simlah Manifesto’, declaring the first war with Afghanistan, was issued from ‘Secretary’s Lodge’ on 1st October, 1838. Lord Ellenborough, who succeeded Lord Auckland as Governor General acknowledged the failure of Lord Auckland’s policy in Afghanistan and the altered intentions of the Government were proclaimed, strangely enough, from ‘Secretary’s Lodge’ on the very same day but four years after the issue of the manifesto, namely on 1st October, 1842. Lord Hardinge, who succeeded Lord Ellenborough as Governor General, continued to use Secretary’s Lodge as the Government Secretariat. General Peter Innes of the Bengal Army purchased Secretary’s Lodge in 1848 and changed its name to Chapslee.

General Innes sold the house in 1870 and, thereafter, it changed hands every few years and served as the residence of some famous persons, including Sir Courtenay, Ilbert, General Pemberton, General Sir



C.E. Nairne, Surgeon-General Bradshaw, Surgeon-General Cleghorn and so on. It was eventually purchased by Sir Arthur Milford **Chapslee** Ker, the well-known manager of the Alliance Bank, in 1896, who improved it beyond all recognition. Chapslee as it stands today is an architectural tribute to Sir Arthur Milford Ker, who not only retained the original structure but enlarged it in such a manner that the old blends with the new to perfection.

The property was purchased by the Honourable Raja Charanjit Singh of Kapurthala, after the demise of Sir Arthur Ker, as his summer residence and fully refurnished the interiors, including electrification & plumbing'. Raja Charanjit Singh died in 1970.

Kanwar Ratanjit Singh, the grandson of the Late Raja Charanjit Singh of Kapurthala, was born and brought up at Chapslee and is the present owner. He started a School known as 'Chapslee School' on the premises in 1973 and 'opened' his home to visitors (to stay) in 1976. Chapslee was one of the first 'heritage hotels' in India. The "interiors", including furniture, fabric, wall-paper, curtains, paintings etc. remained UNCHANGED since 1940.

(iii) The Chalet

'The Chalet', today's Chalet Day School was once a part of the former 'United Services Club'. This was the only section where its all male membership could, as one writer put it, "... entertain their friends of the fair sex without ... (them) intruding on precincts sacred to the residents." The original structure was built in 1890, and this was pulled down and the present structure constructed in 1909. A section of the exposed woodwork was enclosed in the 1980s.

As the name indicates, the building has extensive decorative foliations and fretwork – and even the structural woodwork is evocative of the Swiss Alpine chalet style of construction. The Simla Club opposite the Chalet earlier served as a bandstand.

(iv) Parkash Niwas

This house was once a part of the old Dalzell (Dalziel) estate and structurally lightens the load at every successive storey. The lowest section has been done in dressed stone, followed by brick and topped by the lath and plaster wooden framing in the local ‘dhajji’ style.

(v) St. Mark’s

In 1875 this house served as the Home Office and then, as the YMCA. The Union Church also occupied a portion of the building. An excellent example of site utilisation, the structure employs a combination of ‘dhajji’, lath and plaster, dressed stone and brick while moving up the hill in steps.

(vi) Dharbanga House (Tara Hall)

In 1870, Tara Hall belonged to Major S.B. Goad one of Shimla’s largest house owners. This was then purchased by the Government and once accommodation was created in the vicinity of the former Viceregal Lodge, this was resold to Colonel J. Robertson who had served as President of the Simla Municipality. It then provided the site for a Convent that was established in 1895, by the Loreto Order of Ireland with accommodation for 100 boarders and 300 day pupils. The buildings were rebuilt in 1930. An adjoining property, called ‘Wheatfield’ and later, ‘Darbanga House’ when it passed into the hands of the Maharaja of Darbanga, was also purchased by the Convent in the 1960s and integrated with the school.

(vii) St. Edward’s School

When the dioceses of Simla and Agra were separated 1910, the Catholic school known as St. Michael’s School that existed here at ‘Milsington’ was closed. It was at the initiative of the first Archbishop of the Simla diocese, the Most Rev. A.E.J. Kenealy that process of creating a new school began and in March 1925, St. Edward’s School under the Irish Christian Brothers began functioning. The first Principal was Brother J.C. Doheny. The buildings were reconstructed and the

present main block was completed in 1932. In 1984, the Christian Brothers handed over the School to the Simla Chandigarh Diocese and this is now managed by the Simla Chandigarh Educational Society.

(viii) Auckland House

The original house at this site was built by Dr. Blake who was in the service of the East India Company. This was then taken by the Governor-General, Lord Auckland (1835 - 1842). It was here, in 1838, that Auckland received embassies from both the Hill Chiefs and Punjab's Maharaja Ranjit Singh. While retaining residence, Auckland then sold this to a Dr. Ransford and Auckland's successors the Lords Ellenborough and Hardinge both occupied it. This then became a boarding house till this section of the estate was sold by the next owner, Colonel (later, General) Innes in 1868 to the Bishop and Archdeacon of Calcutta for the purpose of providing premises to a girls school that had already started functioning in Shimla. In 1920, the old building was raised to the ground and the present one built.

(ix) Hainault

This house was built in 1891-92 in the 'dhajji', lath and plaster form of construction. In 1910-11, this was purchased by the Raja of the erstwhile princely state of Jubbal and is still with his descendents.

(x) Torrentium

This house draws its name from Major General R. Torrens, Adjutant-General of the Army and was built in the mid nineteenth century. The present-day Central School for Tibetans which was established here in 1960, was the site of the main house when the estate was divided. Before serving as the Tibetan School, this had held the Ayrcliff High School for Girls (established in 1888) and then, a wing of

Bishop Cotton School. On 27 October 1983, the original building that held the girls' hostel and the junior boys' hostel was gutted in a fire.

Today's Torrentium adjoins the old property and still has a significant portion of the old estate. This is privately owned and retains the parkland it was once famous – while the house is also well preserved.

(xi) Bishop Cotton School.

Bishop Cotton School was founded by the Most Revd. G.E.L. Cotton, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India in 1859 as a part of the Offertories held in a service at Calcutta. In 1863, the School was initially established at Jutogh, and on 26 September 1866 the foundation stone was set at this site. Ten days after this, the Bishop tragically drowned in Bengal. In 1867, as a mark of respect and to perpetuate the memory of its founder, the school was named Bishop Cotton School. On 29 September 1868, the school moved from Jutogh and occupied the new buildings. The original school buildings are essentially neo-Gothic in character and the plan was furnished by Mr. Crawford Campbell of the Corps of Engineers and the work entrusted to Major Innes. The chapel, consecrated in 1870 and named the Holy Trinity Chapel also formed a part of the initial plan.

(xii) RKMV.

The Rashtriya Kanya Maha Vidhyalaya, the Government College for Girls earlier held the Elysium Hotel - and this promontory was known as the 'Elysium Spur'. Interestingly, the word Elysium, the 'blessed fields' of Greek mythology was given to this area as a compliment Lord Auckland's sisters, Fanny and Emily Eden who had accompanied their brother to India when he came as Governor-General between 1835 and 1842. At the time of India's partition in 1947, the hotel was owned by Messrs Hussain Bux and Company who had a tailoring establishment at Scandal Point on the Mall. In 1952, the Sanatam Dharam College was opened here and was given its present name in 1977.

(xiii) Government College for Boys

Known as ‘North Stoneham’, this was the site of the ‘Asiatic Christian Orphanage’ that was established by Mrs. Harriet Tytler in April 1869. In June 1871, the premises were formally declared open by the Viceroy, Lord Mayo and were restyled as ‘The Mayo Institute and the Himalayan Christian Orphanage’ – and was popularly known as the ‘Mayo Industrial School’. On the death of her husband, Mrs. Tytler passed on the institution to a committee of townspeople that had been constituted for the purpose. The object was to provide education and industrial training to European and Eurasian orphaned girls. In 1904-1905, the structure was rebuilt and opened by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Sir Charles Rivaz.

(xiv) Morvyn (I.T.I. Shimla)

On drawings made by Mohammed Aslam and signed by Pt. Chintamani Pant, Executive Engineer, this house was built to serve as an officers’ residence. It was built in 1920-21 of stone set in mud and of dhajji, lath and plaster.

9.2.7.4 HOSPITALS:

(i) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital (Formerly, Ripon Hospital)

The foundation stone of the Ripon Hospital was set by Viceroy of India, the Marquis of Ripon in 1882 and the hospital was opened for patients – both European and Indian – on 14 May 1885 by Lord Dufferin. The architectural plan prepared by Henry Irwin who designed the façade as a large alpine villa – and today, this may well be among the largest structures in India that belong to this style. On a site had originally held two houses, ‘The Briars’ and ‘Glen Cottage’ that burnt down in 1881, the initiative for establishing this hospital was taken by A.O. Hume and Sir Benjamin Franklin. (The year that the hospital was opened was also the year that Hume founded the Indian National Congress that went on to spearhead India’s Freedom Movement). The funds for this institution were almost wholly collected through donations and the original plaque on the hospital acknowledges all those who had a hand in its creation.

(ii) Carton House (Sanitorium)

Carton House was originally a guest house till Dr. H. C. Menkel shifted the ‘Simla Sanitarium and Hospital’, along with the chapel of the Seventh Day Adventists from Belvedere in the Lakkar Bazaar area to these premises in the 1940s. It was basically a hydro and spa till Dr. I. R. Bazliel took over the premises in 1949 and modified this building of brick and dhajji, lath and plaster to serve as a hospital.

9.2.7.5 HOTELS AND COFFEE HOUSES:

(i) Hotel Cecil

Hotel Cecil, originally known as Tendril Cottage located at Chaura Maidan has recently been renovated and equipped with modern amenities. During 1844, a small single storeyed house was constructed at the site. In 1850, it was acquired by Mrs Barlow Colyear. There was some dispute between Mr. David Colyear and Mrs Barlow Colyear



Cecil Hotel

over the Cottage and a suit was filed in the Shimla Civil Court. As per judgement of the court, Tendril Cottage was auctioned and bought by Mr. David Colyear. After making a slight improvement it was sold to Mr. H.R. Cooke, an Assistant Secretary in the foreign office. In 1877, the original structure of the cottage was pulled down and the new one was constructed in its place. For several years its three flats were let out to the residents. In 1902 Mr. Cooke sold it for Rs. Forty five thousand to Mr. R. Hotz, a well known photographer of Shimla, who enlarged and Christened it as Hotel Cecil. Mrs. Hotz parted it with Mr. J. Faletti, a clever caterer of Viceroy. The latter made improvement in the main block of Cecil by spending lakhs of rupees, in order to adapt it to hotel accommodation. In 1916, he established a company of Associated Hotels of

India and brought the Hotel Cecil within its ambit. Falletie's Hotel Cecil has been a par excellence hotel of the East.

In 1946, Hotel Cecil came on national scene when national leaders of freedom movement like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Abdul Kalam Azad, M.A. Jinnan and others came to Shimla to attend the Shimla Conference. For their convenience these leaders were provided boarding and lodging in the Hotel Cecil, in view of its nearness to the Viceregal lodge, venue of the conference. At present Hotel Cecil is in the possession of the Oberoi's.

(ii) Grand Hotel

In 1829, this was the site of a 'dak bungalow', an accommodation for travellers. This was dismantled and rebuilt to provide the first residence of a Governor-General in Shimla and named 'Bentinck Castle' after its first occupant Lord William Bentinck. In 1830, Lord Bentinck negotiated and acquired 4,000 acres of land from the rulers of Patiala and Keonthal to form the core of this town. The hill and the adjoining house are still called 'Bantony' after him.

Subsequently, the house became the residence of various British Commanders-in-Chief of the Indian army - Sir Henry Fane, Sir Jasper Nicholls and Sir Hugh Gough. It then became the property of the famous Sir Henry Lawrence - brother of the Viceroy, John Lawrence. The Simla Bank became its next owner and in time, became the famous Peliti's Grand Hotel - which was destroyed by a fire in 1922. The hotel was rebuilt in stages to take its present form and now serves as a 'guest-house' of the Central Government.

(iii) The Clarkes

The Clarkes Hotel was originally known as the Carlton Hotel and the name was changed around 1920, when it passed into the hands of Ernest Clarke. This neo-Tudor structure then became the first hotel to be owned by the well-known hotelier, M.S. Oberoi.

9.2.8. BUNGALOWS:

The British were fond of Bungalows having unique architecture and settings. They preferred commanding sites and harnessed maximum sun and view in their architectural style. They gave distinct names to their Bungalows. Generally constructed in locally available materials namely, Stone, Wood, and Tin, they have typical roof-scape, chimneys, windows, doors and façades. Dormers, glazing effect and bay windows formed integral part of Bungalow style. The elites who owned vehicles had porch in their bungalows. Here, carriages and cars awaited, visitors received, peons and chowkidars (watchmen) guarded interior territory and officials' messengers stood waiting for replies. The British liked natural surroundings with their abodes.

The major criteria of location of the British houses was access to natural views, conformity to a picturesque landscape and seclusion (from indigenous houses). The bungalow names reflect the tastes, values, likes and prejudices of the colonial community and were borrowed invariably from the cultural wealth brought by the inhabitants. The satisfaction of visual criteria was important first in providing impressive visual appearance from the bungalow', second in ensuring that bungalow formed a part of such a view when perceived from a distance. The British tried to make their houses as little oriental and as much like an English home as possible to encourage social cohesion and maintain their cultural identity.

The location of big bungalows at the peaks and other best sites and small lodges at lower elevation clearly reflected the values underlying the social and cultural traditions of the colonial community. With elevation changed the density of the houses; being densest at the bottom to isolated big bungalows at the top. The resident who enjoyed the highest rank in the town was Viceroy. He had a house-Vice Regal Lodge, which "symbolized in scale, elevation and formed the authority of dominant culture". The bungalows of lesser officials and merchants

were, however, below it. The bungalows were commodious and similar in plan. They sat on slightly raised plinths. The bungalows acquired an overlay of fashionable architectural details.

In their attempt to make the house and its environment as English as possible the colonial community implanted several culture traits. The naming of bungalows formed a part of the alien townscape introduced by the British in India. The houses were given fanciful names derived from the colonial nomenclature.

The houses were named after either the name of the owner for example, Auckland House, Kennedy House, Bentick Castle, or after the important feature on which these were located like Mt. Pleasant Lodge, Kollswood Lodge, Observatory House or after some important physical characteristic around them like natural vegetation-Oak Ville Violet Hill, Fir Cottage, Rose Cottage, Holly Oak, Pine Lodge or important view from that site such as North View, Snow View and Jutough View. Many houses had fanciful names like Sunny side, Daisy Bank, Holly Lodge. Many of the house names were altered with the change in their ownership for example Allan Bank was called 'Nunnery' in 1840, for it was occupied by three sisters. The colonial community as a culture group thus perceived the bungalow and the ecological diversity of the natural landscape around it through the prism of culture and translated this body of knowledge through its dialectal wealth into bungalow names.

The Colonial Bungalow, more accurately described as the colonial bungalow compound complex, is the basic residential unit of the colonial urban settlement. The standard residential unit of the British community was the detached bungalow in its own compound. The typical bungalow consists of a low one storey, spacious building, internally divided into separate living, dining and bedrooms, the latter with attached rooms for bathing. The officials had servants, who had separate quarters behind or to the side of the bungalow, where the

kitchen was also located. The bungalows occupied scenically most attractive and salubrious sites on the hills.

9.2.8.1 Bungalow Compound

The interaction of selected representatives of the metropolitan society with the particular biophysical characteristics of the location yielded a cultural landscape in which the bungalow compound was the main artifact. Its orientation was governed by direction of prevailing winds and sun's course. Each bungalow was surrounded by a spacious compound that was demarcated by fences of linked hurdles or screens of trees and shrubs to ensure privacy and seclusion. The bungalow compound had one main exit to the road on which it was located. The bungalows had small and modest gardens. The gardens contained lawns, shrubs, scattered flower beds, climbing plants on trellises and potted plants on and verandas. The open space all around added to air, light and ventilation. Various leisure activities occurred in bungalow compounds, where they were associated with veranda, a cool, airy, and raised place where friends were greeted and entertained and where books were read, letters written, music performed and listened to, and plants potted and tended. The garden was an important mean of maintaining self-identity. The gardens became more elaborate and showy with the passage of time. Alongwith a network of tracks and paths and a mosaic open and wooded spaces, the bungalow compound provided the setting for the activities and lifestyle of peripatetic hill-station sojournrs. The bungalow and its premises were privately controlled, more or less self-contained milieu whose existence was largely dependent on the labour and services of indigenous population. Sating, demarcation, content and arrangement of the bungalow compounds embodied and reflected social status, preferred visual appearance and a desire for privacy and separateness. Their size was in accordance with the occupant's position in the hierarchy of colonial community. The bungalows are now interspersed with modern structures. Like the bungalow- compound the hill station was a culturally constituted behavioral environment (Hallowell,1967,p.87).

(i) Woodville

Woodville is one of the oldest and finest houses of Shimla east. It was the abode of the Commander-in-Chief during (1860's-1880's). General Sir William Rose Mansfield was its first occupant. In the year 1881 the Woodville was bought by Sir James Walker and passed to the Alliance Bank of Shimla, and was used as the manager's residence. The bank collapsed in the year 1923. In 1926, the



property was bought by Maharaja Sir Bhagvat Singh of Gondal State in Western India for his daughter, Princess Laila. In 1938, the old Victorian building was demolished by her husband Raja Rana Sir Bhagat Chand, the then Ruler of Jubbal State, who tastefully constructed it as summer palace at a cost of Rs. 5.00 lacs. After the Raja's death his grand son Kr.Uday Singh, converted it into a hotel in 1977. The building has 4 Acres area of its

Woodville

complex. Known for 1930's Art Deco Style furniture and fittings, the hotel has lovely surroundings, beautiful wooded walks, clusters of pine and deodar trees and well-groomed lawns. Woodville is an ideal refuge for people who really want peace and solitude, away from the madding crowd. The owner of the Woodville palace Hotel lives within the Estate.

(ii) Bantony

Bantony is one of the most well proportioned and architecturally beautiful building of Shimla near G.P.O. It was the Summer Palace of the Maharaja of Sirmour. Before its construction in the 1880's, there was a rickety cottage belonging to one Capt. Gordon which housed some offices of the Indian army. On its



demolition, the present edifice was built. During **Bantony** the world war-I (1914-18), the house as well as estate were handed over by the Maharaja to the Government of India for housing additional temporary offices for the army. The house is now occupied by the office of DIG Police. The building has a hybrid architecture, combining the features of an English Country house and the local Sirmouri baroque design. The front compound of the house was beautifully blustered with exquisite cast-iron railing brought from Nahan foundry. It has a series of the royal Sirmour State insignia incused in every span of six feet. Most of these artistic crests have been damaged or removed by vandals but whatever is still clinging to the railing is really worth looking at.

(iii) Oakover

One of the town's early houses, Oakover went on to become the residence of the Maharaja of Patiala and today, serves as the official residence of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. At one point of time, the stretch of road along this was referred to as the 'Khyber Pass' after the famous pass that connects the Indian Sub-continent to Afghanistan – and this may well have been a take-off on its channel-like appearance or come as a result of the Anglo-Afghan Wars of the 19th century.

(iv) Earnstone

This house was purchased by the Government in 1919-20 for use as an official residence and was divided into an upper and a lower flat. The main house is built of stone set in mud while some sections employ dhajji, lath and plaster.

(v) Yates' Place

This house has long served Shimla as an officials' residence and is largely built of dhajji, lath and plaster. This style of construction was popular in Shimla and consisted of a wooden framework into which cross-slats were placed and filled-in with stone or brickbats held together with a mortar of mud, lime or cement.

(vi) The Burj

From the time of its construction in 1876, the Burj has been a Government property and is built of stone set in mud. Initially, this was used to receive the princes of India when they came to call on the Viceroy at Peterhof. Later, this became the residence of the Surgeon to the Viceroy. When Peterhof served as the residence of Himachal's State Governor, this was used as the residence of his Secretary.

(vii) Armsdell

The present-day residence of the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh was originally built as a single-storey house in 1888. It was constructed in a combination of stone set in mud and lath and plaster (dhajji) and had a plinth area of eighty-two feet by sixty-eight. A double-storied kitchen, the servants' quarters, stables and a rickshaw shed were added as outhouses. A tennis court was created in 1907-08. As a part of the former Viceregal Estate, this was rebuilt in 1939-40 of brick set in cement mortar with rough-cast walls. The roofing was done galvanised iron sheeting in the 'Nainital pattern'. With elements of the art-deco style of architecture, the house still retains its original character.

(viii) Sidhowal Lodge.

One of the first houses to be built in Shimla in the 1820s, this was initially called 'Ballyhack' and later, became Christ Church Lodge. It was renamed Sidhowal Lodge in the early twentieth century; when it passed into the hands of the Sidhowal family – with whom this still is.

(ix) Holly Lodge.

One of the early houses to be built in Shimla, 'Holly Lodge' was the property of Major S. B. Goad one of Shimla's largest owners in the second half of the nineteenth century. At the instance of Sophia Anne Cotton, wife of G.E.L. Cotton, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, a Girls School was established here in 1866, till it moved to its present premises at Auckland House in 1868. Later, a

well known resident was Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald De Courcy Morton – who died at Curragh, Ireland in 1906 – and a memorial tablet to him was erected at Shimla’s Christ Church and may still be seen. Holly Lodge then passed into the hands Raja Sir Padam Singh of Bushehr who was one of the leading Hill Chiefs; the property is now with his descendants.

(x) Rothney Castle

This house was built by a Colonel Rothney in 1838 and was known as ‘Rothney House’. In 1843, the house passed into the hands of a Dr. Carte who established the ‘Simla Bank Corporation’ – which later shifted to the site of the Grand Hotel. This then became the property of a Mr. A.H. Mathews and he was followed by Mr. P. Mitchell - from whom it was purchased by its most famous owner, Mr. A.O. Hume, founder of the Indian National Congress the organisation that went on spearhead India’s Freedom Movement. By now, the word ‘House’ had also been substituted for ‘Castle’ and Hume set out to establish the ‘Castle’s’ character by totally overhauling the premises to make this one of Shimla’s most magnificent homes. His extensive ornithological collection was also housed here till he donated this to the British Museum. After a few other owners, including the Consuls-General of Germany, ‘Rothney Castle’ passed into the hands of Lala Chunna Mull of Delhi in the first quarter of the twentieth century – and is still with his descendants.

(xi) Strawberry Hill

One of the earliest houses to be built in Shimla, Strawberry Hill is believed to have been occupied by Colonel Tapp, who was the second Political Agent to the Hill States. The house was expanded by Colonel Churchill who served as Military Secretary to Edward Barnes, the Commander in Chief (1832-33). A later occupant in 1849 was the Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie. After several other owners that included the German Consul -General Count Quadt, this then passed into the hands of Raja Sir Daljit Singh of Kapurthala who had the property extensively renovated. The main house is still with the family.

(xii) The Bemloe Cottages

As Government activities expanded in Shimla, there was a steady need for increased accommodation and the construction of thirty-two cottages was started in 1918 for European officers stationed in town; by 1922, construction had been completed. Elements of Edwardian architecture were adopted in building these and this was a style that was becoming increasingly popular in Shimla and used functional designs and materials like burnt brick set in lime.

(xiii) Eaglemount

‘Eaglemount’ (Eagle’s Mount) was built as the residence of the Archbishop of Shimla. The structure is largely built of dhajji, lath and plaster and has some exemplary woodwork that is largely derived from the Alpine forms of Europe.

(xiv) Eddleston

In 1919-20, this house was purchased by the Government for use as an official residence which was a function it served for several years. This is built of stone set in mud and of dhajji, lath and plaster.

(xv) Spring Field

Before the partition of India in 1947, this was the property of Mohammed Yahya Khan of Lahore. The original area of the estate was four acres and had the main house, outhouses, stables and a tennis court. After 1947, the property passed into the hands of the former Raja of Sheikhpura.

(xvi) Craig Gardens

When the secretariat of the Punjab government was built in Chotta Shimla, various residences were built to house its officers in different pockets around the area and included these cottages which are characterized by their rough cast walls.

(xvii) South Gate

One of the prominent residences of Eastern Shimla, South Gate has exemplary brickwork. For several years this was the residence of Col. Khosla of the Indian army's medical services.

(xviii) Foswell

The name 'Foswell' may well have come from the place of the same name in Scotland. The house is built of dhajji, lath and plaster on the lines of a typical early British-Indian bungalow with a deep verandah and eaves.

(xix) EMM Villa

In 1939, this house was referred to as Emville. It is believed to have been in existence from the late nineteenth century and is built of dhajji, lath and plaster as well as stone set in mud.

(xx) Dixie

The origins of this place-name may have to do with the American south or as a story maintains that it was named after the lady of the house. The house may have been in existence from the nineteenth century and is constructed largely in the dhajji style of lath and plaster.

(xxi) Dimple Lodge

Probably first built in the 19th century, this house has the broad characteristics of an Anglo-Indian hill bungalow. The material used in its construction is mostly dhajji, lath and plaster.

(xxii) Delphine Lodge

Appropriately named after the Greek for 'calmness', Delpine Lodge is still set in one of Shimla's secluded corners. The house that was probably built only in the twentieth is still well maintained and retains its original character.

(xxiii) Walsingham

For ages, 'Walsingham' has been the residence of Shimla's Deputy Commissioner. The name may be inspired from the sacred site in North Norfolk in the U.K It may also be conjectured that Shimla's 'Walsingham', owes its name to Sir Francis Walsingham (1530 - 1590), who rose to become the Secretary of State under Britain's Queen Elizabeth I. This made him one of the most powerful men of his time and he served as both a protector of the crown and realm. In Shimla's context, the role of the Deputy Commissioner under the colonial government, was not dissimilar. The house which is constructed in dhajji, lath and plaster was built before the mid 19th century and largely retains its original character.

(xxiv) Inverarm

Inverarm' belonged to a General Innes in the 1860s – who also owned several other properties in Shimla. This then became the property of the Raja of Sirmaur and was later purchased by the Government. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the house was totally rebuilt of stone set in mud and was often allotted to Members of the Viceroy's Council. Its occupants included Lord William Beresford who contributed greatly to Shimla, General Sir Edwin Collen, Sir Edward Law, Sir Sankaran Nair, Sir Mohamed Shafi and Sir Mahomed Habibullah.

(xxv) Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur's Building (Manorvilla)

This was the residence of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (1889 – 1964), daughter of Raja Harnam Singh of Kapurthala. In the struggle for India's freedom, she was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi – who often stayed here while visiting Shimla. She was India's first lady cabinet minister. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences was created at the initiative of Prime Minister, Jawharlal Nehru and her. She then donated this brick and timber house to the Indian Council of Medical Sciences.

(xxvi) Aira Holme

Built in 1870 in the ‘dhajji’, lath and plaster style of construction, this was originally named ‘Morefield Grange’. In the early twentieth century, this passed into the hands of Sir Jogendra Singh, Home Minister of Patiala who renamed it ‘Aira Holme’ after one of his jagir lands. Two additional houses were constructed on this rise in 1920 – one of which was rebuilt in 1939. The property is still with Sir Jogendra’s descendants.

(xxvii) Stirling Castle.

In Britain, Stirling was regarded as the gateway to the north and its castle was where some frenzied parleys and complicated intrigues took place. In Shimla, ‘Stirling Castle’ was far more peaceful, and occupies a rise on the town’s northern aspect and has been in existence since the 1830s. Among its well-known occupants were the author, Sir W.W. Hunter, Sir Courtney Ilbert and the Maharaja of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Nabha.

(xxviii) Corner House

Built of dressed stone and wood, Corner House was the residence of the Municipal Engineer of Shimla.

9.2.9 THE CHURCHES:

The institution of religion was most clearly expressed in the churches. It was the most visible symbol in the cultural landscape of the city. There are four Churches in Shimla namely the Christ Church at the Ridge, the Catholic Church near Western Command, Church in St. Bede’s Complex and a Church in Bishop Cotton School Complex. The Christ Church, being nucleus dominates townscape of the City. Whereas, the Christ Church is a yellow painted structure in typical style, the other three Churches are in original stone masonry.

(i) Christ Church



The church was designed in neo-Gothic style by Col. J.T. Boileau. The cornerstone of this second oldest Christ Church in North India was laid in September, 1844. It was constructed in January, 1857 by the Bishop of Madras. The Church-building fund was created and by and by, a bell, **Christ Church**

a font, a pulpit and an organ were added. In 1860's it was declared a public building and looked after by the Government. Many improvements were made in it. The aisles and chancel were extended. Subsequently, a porch was constructed and the clock-tower was added. The clock was put up by Col. Dumbleton in 1860. The present organ replaced the earlier one and built by Morgan and Smith of Brighton on 29th September, 1899. Countess Dufferin defrayed the cost of decorating the pipes. The actual cost of the Church came to Rs. 89,000/- only.

(ii) Catholic Church

Built in stone in 1885, the Catholic Church near Deputy Commissioner's Office and Cantonment Area, was the first Catholic Church in the city. It is a mixture of Gothic style of architecture of an English Renaissance. It has a spacious nave and two aisles. Over the High Altar, there is a stained glass window, the Central figure of which is a



Catholic Church
group of crucifixion on the left is St. Francis of Assisi showing stigmatic hands. On the right side there is St. Joseph. Some other figures pertain to different saints. These figures are beautiful pieces of art. The belfry is fitted with a chime of bells, novelty in the Himalayas.

9.2.10 TEMPLES :

(i) Kali Bari Temple.

This temple is regarded to have been established at this spot by Ram Charan Bhramachari, a Bengali Brahmin in about 1845. The principal image of the goddess Kali is made of black marble and is flanked by folk carvings in stone –

which are considered to have belonged to an older temple that lay on the slopes of Jakhoo hill. It is also surmised that these may be of the local goddess 'Shyamala' after whom the town of Shimla may have been named.

(ii) Shimleshwar (Shiva Mandir)

This temple was built by Shri Madan Giri in the first half of the nineteenth century and has been maintained by his family. Dedicated to Bhagwan Shiva, this was given a local touch by being called the Shimleshwar Mahadev temple. Other deities are also enshrined in the premises. Over the years, the structure has undergone certain modifications, but the sanctum retains most of its original character.

(iii) Jakhoo Temple.

In terms of verifiable history, very little is known about this temple and the first reference to this is from the diary of Captain Alexander Gerard who stopped here in August 1817. It is however accepted that a small temple had stood here long before this. Legend has it that Bhagwan Hanuman dropped a sandal here while searching for the sanjivini plant required to cure Laxman who lay mortally wounded on a battlefield in Lanka, while a variation declares that he stopped here to rest. It is also believed that this was also the site of a local deity, Jakhra and was where the sacred wooden ridge beams of many local temples were brought before being taken to their intended positions elsewhere in the area.

9.2.11 CEMETERIES :

(i) Cemetery Near Oakover

This Christian burial ground was opened about 1828 and the first grave is dated 1829. As the town started growing, it was found to be too close to habitation and was closed; the last grave is of Captain Mathew Ford and is dated 17 March 1841. This cemetery has about a dozen graves and monuments.

(ii) Cemetery At Barrier, Boileauganj

This cemetery of Shimla's Muslim community is believed to have been in use since the mid-twentieth century. This was brought into use once the older one at Boileauganj, that lies just below the mosque was considered full.

(iii) Cemetery At Kanlog

Dated 1850, the earliest grave in this burial ground for the town's Christian community is of Joseph Anderson. As Shimla grew in both size and importance, this burial ground was repeatedly extended till it became what historically, is the town's most important cemetery. In these confines lie some of the people who substantially influenced both Shimla, and the history of the period. This was closed in the 1920s. While the cemetery was created in phases, today it is recognisable by the division created by the highway that has divided its two sections; the older one lies above the road.

(iv) Cemetery At Sanjauli

Once the Christian cemetery in Kanlog was found to be full, other land was sought for the purpose. When this site was decided upon, negotiations were started with the former princely state of Koti in whose territories this spur lay. The Rana of Koti granted the land on a 'perpetual lease'. This cemetery is still in use and was dedicated by the Bishop of Lahore on 29 July 1921. The earliest grave in this cemetery is of Joseph Multani, an Indian Christian who was buried here on 12 May 1921 – and this was before the formal Dedication. Different plots have been marked for use by various denominations and this ground holds over 600 graves.

(v) Cemetery At Nav Bahar (Nuns Grave Yard below St. Bedes)

This private cemetery was opened in the 1870s for the nuns of the Convent of Jesus and Mary. Some nuns of the Loreto order are also interred under the shady deodars. The memorial by the gate is dedicated to Colonel Parker who died in 1837, however his body was not interred here – and this cenotaph was placed here at the behest of. Colonel Tapp, Superintendent of the Hill States.

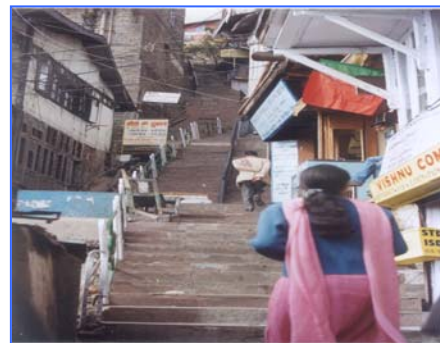
9.2.12 MUSEUM:

A Museum was located in the house named ‘Bonnie Moon’ and consisted of a large collection of birds from all parts of the world. “In addition shells, oriental manuscripts, geological, mineralogical and mythological specimen were also displayed here”.

9.2.13 STREET PATTERN:

The Himalayan hill station had central thoroughfare ‘The Mall’. From here Cart road, various other roads, streets or tracks either branched off, to make a circuitous route round the peaks on which the settlement was sited and then returned to ‘The Mall’, or to peter out to the uninhabited slopes. Besides recreation, the roads were used for walking, riding, collecting flora and ensuring social interaction. When cars arrived in twentieth century, they were usually only permitted to a certain elevation from which rickshaws and ‘coolies’ carried visitors and belongings to their various destinations. The hill station was a pedestrian-equestrian precinct. In moving out of the house, destinations were less important than encounters.

The Heritage Buildings, Bungalows and various other complexes have generally independent approaches. The streets were initially stone paved. However, many of them have been tarred over passage of time. They are generally vehicular and at steep slopes stepped. They are sinuous and circular in their character, due to hill topography.



A Street in Central Shimla

9.2.14 SOCIO-CULTURAL SPACES:

The British towns possessed interesting and diverse topography, splendid scenery, abundant flora and fauna, paths and open spaces for walking and riding, pleasant gardens and opportunity to escape from the medically baleful and socially restricting presence of non-Europeans. Most leisure activities at the hill station were popular in contemporary metropolitan society and took place outdoors.

The major socio-cultural spaces are namely the Ridge, Rani Jhansi Park, Skating Rink, Scandal Point, Town Hall square etc. The pedestrians and tourists chat and enjoy at these places. Simla, with best physical landscape, excellent climate and with every amenity, provided the colonial community with a congenial social



**Socio- Cultural Space in vicinity
of Rothney Castle**

and physical environment who considered it to be “ a mini England hanging almost high enough above to escape the reality of India”.

The main social gatherings in the town were at club, musical concerts at some dignitary’s residence, parties and games at Annandale and theatricals by Amateur Dramatic Club. Simla was said to be the Mecca of Amateur actors.

(i) Ladies Park

This was an area that the early descriptions of Shimla of the first quarter of the nineteenth century reported as full of dense undergrowth and wildlife. It then went on to hold Shimla’s first hotel known as the ‘Royal Hotel’ which was renamed as ‘Lowrie’s Hotel’ after the owner. The hotel burnt down in the 1930s and it was decided not to rebuild this and in its stead, the ‘Municipal Park for Women and Children’ was opened here 6 July 1937 by Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, The names of the of Members of the original Committee are listed on the commemorative plaque on the gate.

9.2.15 SPRINGS AND BOULIS:

Many of the springs, were, converted into ‘baolis’ (small water reservoir) by the villagers. The oldest ‘baoli’ in Shimla is said to have existed just above the United Service Club. Once there existed a spring, known as Churail Baoli, which was said to be haunted.

Three important waterfalls are located in the North-Eastern part of Simla and to the South-East of Elysium Hill. These have a height of 10 ms, 30 ms, 50 ms. respectively.

9.2.16 GOLF COURSES

9.2.16.1 The 9 hole golf course at Naldehra was originally laid out by the British Vice Roy, Lord Curzon who was so enchanted by this spot that he gave his daughter Alexandra, Naldehra as her second name.

9.2.16.2 Annandale:

To the South-East of Summer Hill is situated what has been called a “peculiar terrain feature-Annandale a small patch of table land about a one-fourth of mile in circumference. It was named either after a Dufreshire glen of the same name by some homesick



Annandale Ground

Scotman or according to some other story after the first lady who graced its solitude, who was called Anna. It was a popular spot for outdoor recreational activities. It was an attractive spot, suited to the taste for romantic pastoral, the perfect backdrop for picnic luncheons and fete campers.

9.2.17 BRITISH SEGREGATION:

The ruling class wanted to maintain a lifestyle alien to the Indian set up. The functioning, survival, maintenance and preservation for their social identity and cultural ethos was possible and dependent upon the infra-structural support provided by the Indian community. The principle of strict segregation from the indigenous population was maintained till the end of the colonial rule. The

English men and women were members of one great family, aliens under one sky. The cohesiveness through exclusiveness was essence of the Raj.

10 AN ARCHITECTURAL SAGA

Shimla is widely known for its architectural masterpieces. Teams of students and scholars of art and architecture frequently visit the historical buildings dotted primarily along the Mall or in its vicinity. Vice Regal Lodge is a Neo-Gothic architectural masterpiece. Elements of Baronial architecture are also visible in the building including light pitch roofing. Similarly, Gorton Castle was also constructed in Neo-Gothic



Gaiety Theatre

style. Railway Board building was constructed in a distinct colonial style in cast iron and steel material. It was designed to be structurally fire resistant. Town Hall is an unique example of imperial architecture.

Façade of this building towards Scandal Point represents European character. Built in 'Barog stone' it is roofed with grey slates and has aesthetically detailed out doors, windows and cornices. Three storeyed wooden General Post Office building is a nice example of English hill architecture. The lower portion of Central Telegraph Office building constructed in ashlar worked stone is a masterpiece of early 20th century.



Constructed with 'dhajji' walls and **Municipal Library Building at Ridge** excellent interior teak woodwork, Barnes Court (Raj Bhawan), U.S. Club, historic Grindlays Bank building are examples of British architecture. Grindlays Bank building exhibits finest art and architecture in its simplicity, as it is built in smooth and plain exposure with stone. Christ Church was designed in Neo-Gothic style with buttresses and stained glass windows. Built in stone and plastered from outside, its lofty spires loom large over the skyline of the city. It is the nucleus of town. Catholic Church near Deputy Commissioner office is a mixture of Gothic style of architecture of English Renaissance. The British tried to make their houses as little oriental and as much like an English home as possible to encourage cohesion and maintain their cultural identity. Bantony, the Summer Palace of Maharaja of Sirmour has a hybrid architecture combining the features of an English country house and local Sirmour baroque design. Built in Gothic architecture, Municipal Library building at ridge is an attractive structure on a grand city plaza. The quaint structure in timber-framed (dhajji-wall) construction with pitched roof has very ornamental framing and is reminiscent more of English cottage, than a public building in it. The institutional buildings, though imperious in expressions, yet have a tremendous richness of detail and harmonise well with the snow-capped peaks and the towering deodars.

Even the warrens of ramshackle structures in the lower bazaar, knit together with flights of steps and narrow alleys, have a character of their own, and a spatial experience which is imbued with human warmth. Beneath the window-dressing of the elegant Mall, the Lower Bazaar throbs with an intimate scale of architecture and people.

A brittle kind of stone was most common. Except outer coatings the cement was almost absent. Sometimes tar was used in small quantities. Houses of local people were made of stone, boulders, mud, slate and timber.

10.1 FACADES



Auckland School



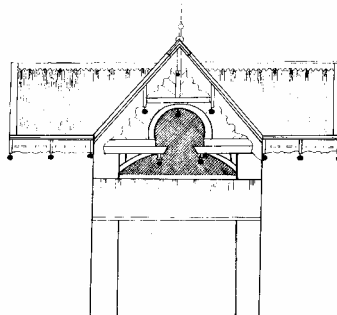
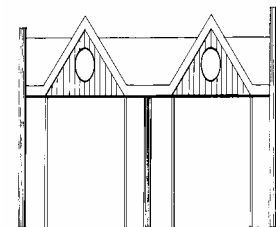
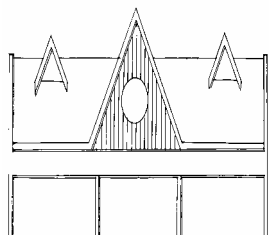
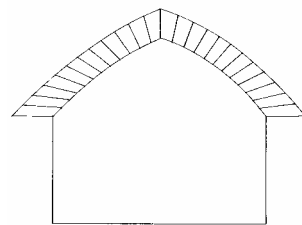
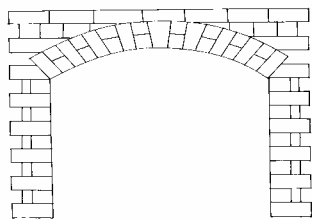
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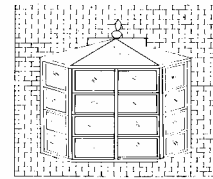
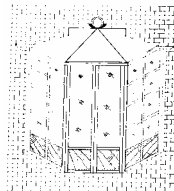
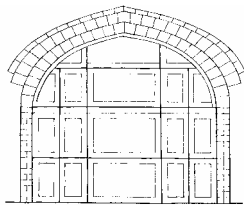
Bhargav Estate



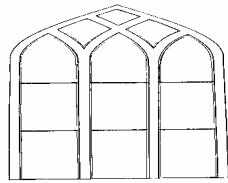
Rippon Hospital



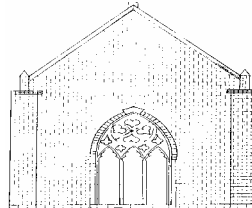
Porch of Chapslee Building



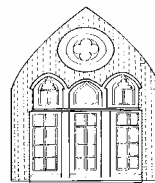
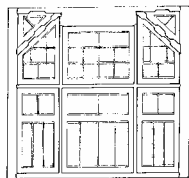
A Window of Ellerglie Building



Windows of Rani Amrit Kaur Building



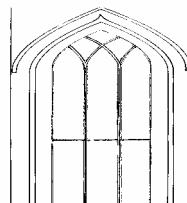
Windows of Catholic Church



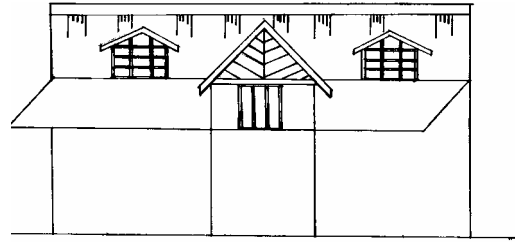
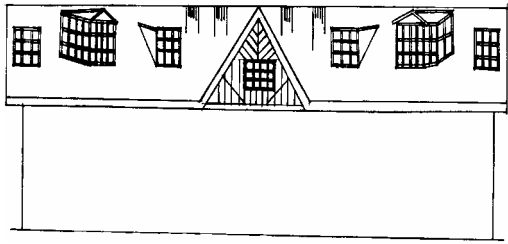
A Window of Town Hall



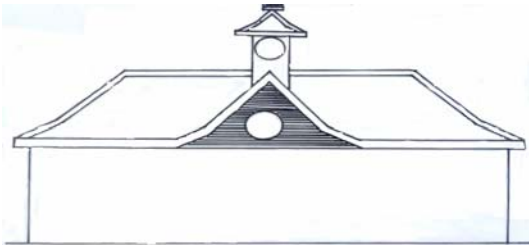
A Window of Gaiety Theater



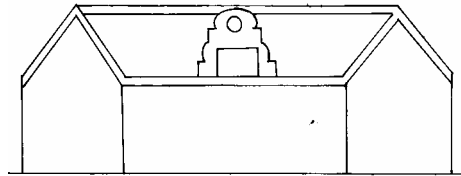
Windows of Christ Church



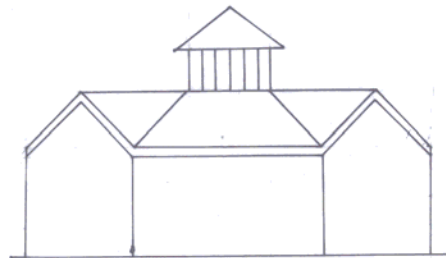
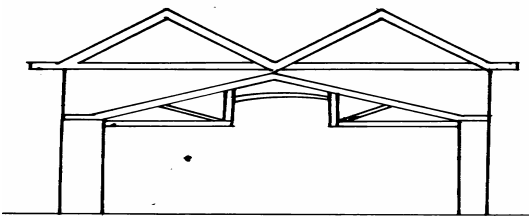
Roof of Town Hall



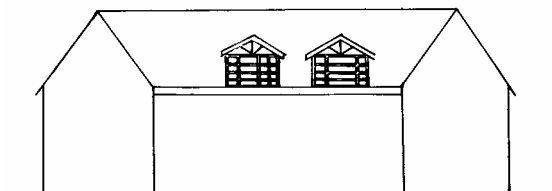
Roof of Deepak Project Building



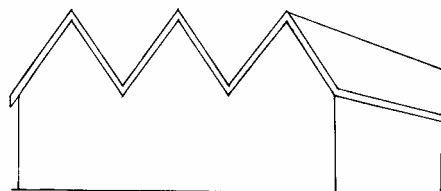
Roof of Bishop Cotton School



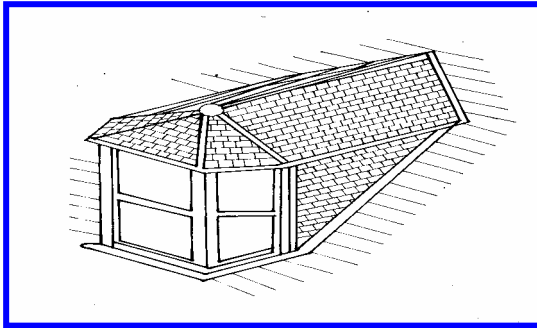
Roof of Grammer School Kaithu



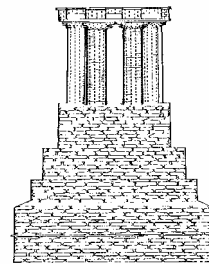
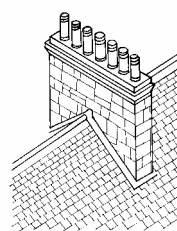
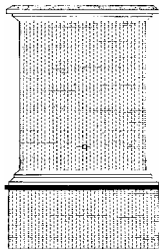
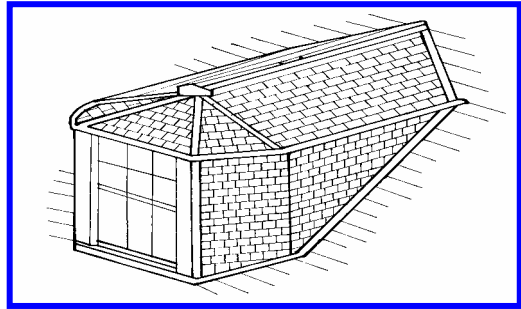
Roof of State Museum



Roof of Winter Field

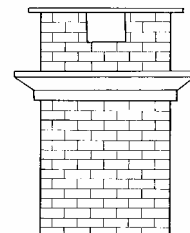
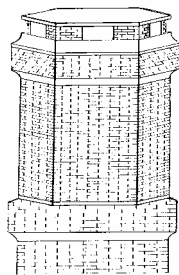
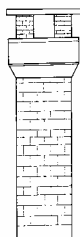
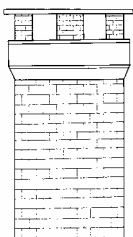


Roof of B.C.S. School

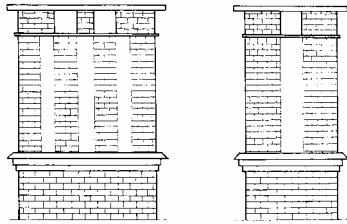


Chimneys of Cecil Hotel

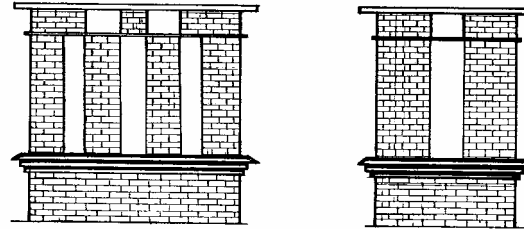
Revise



Chimneys of U.S. Club

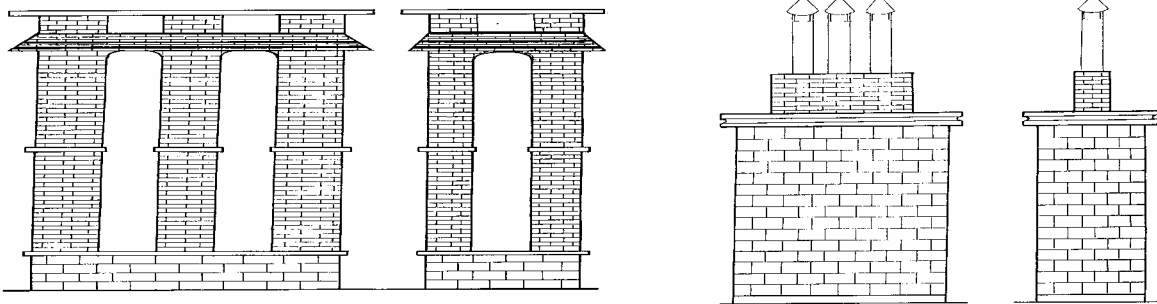


Chimney of Telegraph Office



A

Chimneys of Bantony



Chimneys of Town Hall

Chimneys of Gorton Castle

11. BUILDING MATERIAL:

The city consists of Dhajji wall (timber framed) structures consisting of wooden structures over a stone base. Clumps of wet earth with stone pieces or ballast are compiled and closely packed into the wooden frames, and surfaces plastered with a coat of mud and lime often ornamental patterns are created for timber framing, and they are painted in bright colours. Typical material chosen for construction of major public buildings were local stone for walls and timber for sloping roofs. This imparted a magnificent architectural expression and an

appearance of solidarity and stability to the buildings. The use of the local stone and wooden sloping roof-forms also lent them an organic quality which harmonized well with the landscape of hills and buildings appeared imposing. For residences, usually timber-framed construction with sloping roofs in slates or CGI sheets was employed. These light weight structures with beautiful patterns of timber framing the in-fill walls of local materials were not only aesthetic, but also climatologically suitable and in fact safer against earthquakes. Although alien in architectural expression and eclectic in styles, nostalgic of Swiss chalets and English country cottages, they nevertheless have a holistic unity with the ambience of hills.

Even the warrens of ramshackle structures in the lower bazaar, knit together with flights of steps and narrow alleys, have a character of their own, and a spatial experience which is imbued with human warmth. Beneath the window-dressing of the elegant Mall, the Lower Bazaar throbs with an intimate scale of architecture and people.

A brittle kind of stone was most common. Except outer coatings the cement was almost absent. Sometimes tar was used in small quantities. Houses of local people were made of stone, boulders, mud, slate and timber.

12. TASTE FOR LANDSCAPE

The British were very fond of nature. They ensured development in consonance with natural imperatives and harmonized the buildings with height of trees and configurations of local terrain. They made massive plantation of various species of vegetation. The northern and north eastern parts were popular with the inhabitants, as these offered better sites to those who wanted to enjoy the best climate and the best landscape views. The commanding sites were generally preferred. Maximum availability of sun was main consideration for location of buildings.

13. HORRORS OF PROGRESS

The art of the man that coexisted happily with the art of nature, has now become a contradiction of the latter. Most of the once almost finite and predominantly pedestrian hill stations of the British days including Shimla are now melancholy shadows of their past. Increase in commercial activity, unplanned physical growth and exodus of population from rural areas along with tourist influx have ruptured the delicate relationship of ‘Art and Habitat’ in these small, finite townships. All the over-crowding has resulted in denuding the mountain slopes of magnificent tree covers, making way for more buildings and roads. The fragile ecosystems have been altered, resulting in changed micro-climates, visual blight, chaotic transportation systems and an irreparable loss of aesthetics in the built form and landscape.

Shimla is one of the prime examples of wanton degradation caused by ‘wheels of progress’. The present day building construction mode is to make deep pile foundations on the mountain slopes and raise structures in concrete frames with brick in-fill walls. This type of built-form besides being aesthetically discordant is also unsafe for the fragile ecosystems of the mountain slopes. These veritable boxes of concrete and glass with pernicious designs have wounded the age old beauty of the wooded world and ruptured the silent language between man and nature. Shimla lives on its proud past. It broods over its passive present. It aspires for a promising future. The glory of its past attracts visitors and hard reality of magnitude of its degradation makes them sad. The present generation owe a moral responsibility to restore old glory of Shimla for its residents and tourists, as well as for the posterity. Congested built up areas, traffic hazards, over-concentration of activities in the central area, unauthorized constructions, land degradation, mixed landuse, lack of integration between place of work and place of living and mismatch between population and urban infrastructure development are the common problems of Shimla, which are required to be tackled by restricting construction activities in Central Shimla, including in green areas. As the city has

deteriorated considerably and fast heading towards debacle and ruin, concrete joint efforts of the stakeholders and community at large are necessitated. It is already too late to undertake restoration and urban renewal process. An utmost professional skill and firm administrative and political will is needed to set an order. As isolated and piecemeal efforts cannot make tangible impact, joint efforts of all the authorities can ensure the urban renewal and thereby better Shimla and its healthy environs, so that it continues its traditional role as a global tourist destination. Accordingly, the Revised Development Plan has been prepared and the same is under consideration of the Government for approval, which will go long way to make Shimla a healthy, wealthy, clean, green and vibrant city.

14. HERITAGE CONSERVATION:

In order to ensure conservation of heritage along the Mall, the stretch from Chhota Shimla to Vice-Regal Lodge complex alongwith single building depth and upto 25 metres distance has already been notified as a Heritage Zone. Only reconstructions on old lines are permissible in the Heritage zone, projecting the original features in accordance with Heritage Regulations in force in the area under the Shimla Development Plan. Considering the enormous wealth of Heritage, inherited by Shimla over the years, during the British regime, it is imperative that the same is preserved for posterity. The entire city that existed when the British left in 1947 is required to be viewed as a single entity, in the context of development, in order to ensure proper growth and conservation of the Heritage of the city. Shimla has a name in the international market, due to its unique architecture and beautiful buildings that dot the cityscape. If heritage is lost in the maze of development, city would suffer enormously both economically and environmentally. In order to mobilize resources to be made available by national and international funding agencies, it is essential to notify Shimla as a heritage city. The owners may be provided incentives to ensure preservation of

heritage buildings. Making heritage conservation as people's movement is the foremost necessity.

15. REGULATORY CONTROL:

15.1 In view of proud past of Shimla, on one hand and need for preservation of Heritage, on the other regulatory control for Heritage Zone and Heritage Buildings of Shimla has been devised.

The limits of Heritage Zone are defined as under:-

- 1) Vice Regal Lodge Complex complete.
- 2) One building depth on either side of the road surrounding Vice Regal Lodge Complex.
- 3) Upto 50 metre belt on either side of the Mall Road starting from gate of IAS upto Chhotta Shimla Chowk via S.B.I. Scandal Point, Shimla Club & Oak Over.
- 4) One building depth on either side of the path/road starting from Parkash Niwas (Housing Shimla Type Writer) near S.B.I. Via Kali Bari to the Scandal Point.
- 5) The area bounded by Scandal Point, Ridge, Regal, Takka Bench, Church, Ritz, U.S. Club gate, P.W.D. Office, Chalet Day School and the Mall Road.
- 6) One building depth on either side of the road from Oak Over to Barnes Court (Governor's Residence) via Wood Villa and,
- 7) Any building/buildings falling outside the Heritage Zone but declared as heritage building/buildings by the State Government.

15.2. No Construction Heritage zone:

No development shall take place in the appurtenant land around Vice Regal Lodge, delineated as under: -

“Area bounded by Khasra No. 482, 388 and 321 (i.e. Starting from Deori to Square Hall via Baggi Road), Khasra No. 24, 31, 95, 93 and(from Square Hall to Curzon House) and Khasra No. 209, 251 626 and 891 (from Curzon House to Deori)”.

15.3. The Heritage Zone shall be divided into following two categories, namely:-

(i) Built Heritage:

It shall comprise of all the buildings both private and government falling within the Heritage Zone as well as heritage building outside the Heritage Zone, as declared by the State Government.

(ii) Natural Heritage:

- a) Area on hillside of the Mall starting from Khadi Gramodyog to Kali Studio.
- b) Daulat Singh Park.
- c) Café Park.
- d) The open green patches, slopes, woodlands in heritage zone and not covered in above.

15.4. The following Zoning Regulations shall be applicable in the Heritage Zone:-

Pre-requisite for Planning Permission:-For planning permission of the construction of new buildings on vacant sites, detailed architectural drawings/maps in the scale of 1:50 shall be prepared showing all architectural features with size and material proposed to be used along with two photographs of 15 cm x 25 cm size of adjoining heritage buildings. In case of reconstruction on old lines, the detailed architectural drawings/maps in the scale of 1:50 shall be prepared showing all the architectural features with size and material proposed to be used along with old architectural drawings along with two photographs of 15cm x 25cm size of old building.

- I. Only reconstruction on old building lines shall be permissible in this zone. The existing plinth are, no. of storeys and floor heights shall not be altered during course of reconstruction of old buildings. Only one storey and attic construction for residential use in the plots acquired prior to 31.12.2005 except 25 metre belt along the Mall Road, shall be permissible.

- II. The original façade shall be maintained. The facade shall have the admixture of wood, stone, glass, slate and tiles as in the original building. If natural materials are not available, the alternative ones shall be given the same touch.
- (a) The roof of the buildings to be constructed on vacant sites shall be sloping with a maximum height of 2.50 meters with single or continuous dormer .
- (b) In sloping roof, slate or corrugated iron sheets, plain galvanized iron sheets, Hy-Polymer plastic tiles shall only be used. Primary colours either post office red or green shall be used for roofing.
- III. The aesthetics of Bay Windows in the existing buildings shall be enhanced by providing window boxes for flowers. In case of reconstruction of buildings, bay windows shall essentially be provided to enhance aesthetics and functionality. Maximum 45 cm. projection of Bay Window shall be permitted on the set backs.
- IV. The false chimneys shall be provided on the roof of the new buildings keeping in view of the designs of Chimneys of the surrounding old buildings.

15.5. Option for Architectural Elements:

The applicant seeking planning permission for reconstruction or construction of buildings in Heritage Zone shall follow the following architectural elements for maintaining aesthetics of the existing surrounding buildings, namely:-

- 1) Dormer.
- 2) Windows.
- 3) Doors.
- 4) Bay Windows.
- 5) Façade.
- 6) Chimney.
- 7) Roofing.
- 8) Temporary Kiosks.

15.6. Natural Heritage Area:

- 1) No construction shall be allowed on vacant/green patches in the strip of 25 meters on either side of the Mall and along road encircling Indian Institute of Advanced Studies Complex.
- 2) Temporary ‘Kiosks’ for special occasions may be installed by the Municipal Corporation Shimla with the approval of the “Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee”.

15.7 Street Furniture:

Street furniture in natural Heritage Areas shall be provided in the following manner, namely:-

- 1) Cast iron benches.
- 2) Decorative lighting at two levels.
- 3) All the drainage system shall have half round stone Ware pipes of various sizes according to the quantum of run off of water along with stone edging.
- 4) The design of recreating water drinking spouts made of cast iron shall be got approved by the Municipal Corporation from the sub-committee comprising of at least three members of the Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee.

15.8. Services:

All the electric and telephone wiring shall be concealed to improve the overall look of the heritage zone.

15.9. Sign Boards:

Brass plates of size of 2’x1’-6”, inscribing history of

- 1) The building shall be displayed at strategic points of historical buildings. The sub-committee mentioned at Para 10.7.6. (iv) will be responsible for identifying such buildings and approving the text and design of such plates.

- 2) The signboards and hoardings to be provided at strategic locations shall be in accordance with National Building Code. They shall not occupy more than 10% of the façade in any case.
- 3) For the sign boards for shops and business houses, the sub-committee shall assist Municipal Corporation Shimla in formulating guidelines for the same.

15.10 Additions and Alterations:

Any additions or alterations in the existing heritage buildings involving change in structure and design shall be in conformity with the existing building and prescribed regulations, subject to approval of the Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee and of the Cabinet.

15.11 Repair and Maintenance:

The repair and maintenance of existing heritage buildings and cemeteries, within the heritage zone or outside it shall be allowed by the Commissioner, M.C. Shimla in Municipal limit and by the Chairman, Special Area Development Authority within the Special Areas of Shimla Planning Area, in conformity with the existing features of the same.

15.12 In case of owners who continue to maintain the heritage houses shall be exempted from the house tax/property tax. In order to make the heritage properties self sufficient, tourism use in terms of Guest Houses shall be allowable therein, provided they fulfill the requisite regulations.

15.13. Other Regulations:

- 1) Conservation of heritage buildings, rehabilitation of khokawallas or owners of unpleasant uses and removal of non-conforming uses, shall be followed.
- 2) Where building line has to be strictly maintained, as far as possible, roads/streets shall be made wide enough to cater to the needs of increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

- 3) Organized parking shall be created at strategic points, so that vehicular/pedestrian movement is not obstructed.
- 4) The slopes on either side of roads shall be covered with green cover.
- 5) No further permission for new constructions shall be allowed where it could result in the obstruction of view.
- 6) No compounding or retention shall be allowed in Heritage Zone. Any violation in this zone shall be dealt with strictly in accordance with the provisions of section 39 of Town & Country Planning Act.
- 7) The new buildings, which do not conform to the architectural style of heritage buildings, shall be face-lifted in accordance with their original style or adjoining features.
- 8) Only such Architects shall be allowed to prepare and submit drawings pertaining to the Heritage zone who are registered with the Council of Architecture, New Delhi.
- 9) The registration of an Architect shall be treated cancelled and sanction shall stand withdrawn, if construction is carried out in violation of sanctioned plan. The Architect and owner shall furnish an undertaking to this effect, at the time of seeking planning permission.
- 10) The open steps connecting the Mall road with Middle and Lower Bazars shall be of stone slabs.
- 11) The regulations, already in force, in heritage areas, shall also be operative therein”.

