

# Church as a Geo-Historic Archive -A case study of Greater Mumbai

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## **Abstract**

The church is the center of Christian devotion and reflects local beliefs, practices and traditions. Ornate buildings and beautiful buildings sometimes become important landmarks of the world. These monuments echo the diversity of the region and often reflect local art, skill, and decoration. Churches serve as archives of history. Conservation and restoration is a commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of the future. Conservation activities include testing, documentation, treatment, and conservation protection, supported by research and education. The magnificent buildings of Greater Mumbai face a variety of challenges and are in dire need of a cost-effective discipline system. The precious places of worship of Mumbai should be celebrated and revered as spiritual centers and permanent places in our communities. Today, the owners of precious places of worship face many challenges. These may include parishioner's declines, decreasing salaries, and increasing prices, outdated materials, civic security and approachability, accommodation burdens, adjustment to new features of reverence, and a change in approach. Spiritual areas are significant as they are storehouses of cultural inheritance and cater to the spiritual requirements of society at large.

The current paper highlights the geo-history of Greater Mumbai and the importance of churches in the construction of the city sky. This paper is an attempt to instill a sense of heritage management and to honor these historical symbols in the minds of young people. It focuses on finding sustainable solutions to the survival of these historical wonders.

**Keywords:** landscape, conservation, physiography, heritage

## **Introduction**

Christianity in Greater Mumbai began when the Portuguese began building settlements on the west coast of India. One of them was in Mumbai. The Portuguese were more powerful in controlling the Indian religion than the English, and few local Hindus converted to Roman Catholicism, as they did in other Portuguese parts of India such as Goa. To this day Roman Catholics continue to contribute to the development of facilities, hospitals, schools, and welfare centers. The English, though opposed to the Roman Catholic Church, also introduced the Anglican Church, later known as the Church of Northern India and the Church of Southern India. The Anglican Church, with its Indian descendants, was no different from its Catholic counterpart, but, because of its allegiance to the Archbishop of Canterbury rather than to the Pope of Rome. Several wonderful and encouraging congregations are a testament to their authority.

**Objectives:**

1. Learn about the local distribution of Churches in Greater Mumbai
2. Understand the changing churches.
3. Raise awareness of these monuments as heritage management structures.
4. Identify the challenges these religious institutions face and the possible solutions.

**Methodology**

The study focused on the distribution and importance of church heritage management in Greater Mumbai. The accompanying maps and texts are prepared for analysis. Some photos and images are collected where necessary. Research questions have been evaluated and validated.

**Database**

The research data were basically based

- i. A detailed list of questions will be provided to all congregations in Greater Mumbai.
- ii. Old Gazetteer of Bombay city and island.
- iii. Weekly updates and records.
- iv. Old maps (topographical and cadastral)
- v. Some maps and archives.

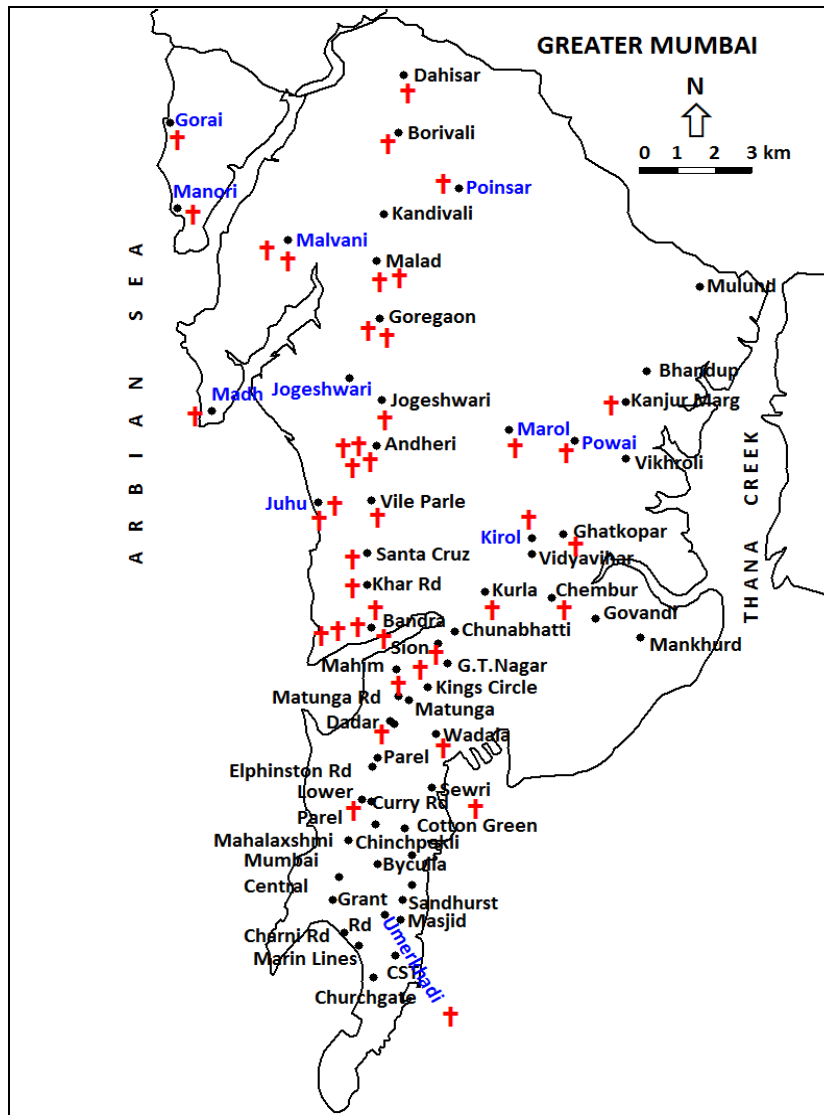
**Regional Growth in Greater Mumbai**

The growth of parishes on the island of Bombay (today, the city of Bombay, from Mahim and Zion in the north to Colaba in the south) may seem closely related to the Padroado struggle for propaganda on the island. between 1774-1928. The truth of this statement comes when one compares the growth of the Bombay region with the growth of the regions of Bassein and Salsette.

The history of the Salsette region can be traced back to three centuries:

1. Parishes found in Salsette under the diocese of Goa (1534-1794)
2. Parishes were established when Salsette was hit twice in the island of Bombay (1794-1928)
3. Parishes were established when Salsette was under one monarchy of Bombay (1928 to this day).

The map below reveals the local distribution of churches in Greater Mumbai;



Authors Compilation

Map 1

### Space Dynamics of Churches in Greater Mumbai-

Space Dynamics emerges from places where the social and cultural pattern is intertwined because of the contribution of ideas, concepts, and philosophies, thus creating a place for traditional culture. Greater Mumbai owes its existence to its diversity of cultures and traditions. Congregations have contributed to the development of this large city in its present form. Since the 16th century with the advent of globalization the churches have been part of the transformation process in the region. Understanding the emergence of churches and their surroundings is important as this has had a profound impact on the growth and development of Greater Mumbai (Map 1)

The spatial analysis of the various churches in Greater Mumbai opens the way for understanding the reasons for the spread of Christianity in and around Greater Mumbai. Catholic churches are spread all over Greater Mumbai. Mumbai was formerly called Salcette by the Portuguese, probably because of its sixty-six local language 'Saha-Sasht' hence the name 'Salcette'. There are goathan areas where churches

still exist, cultural captions still exist but declining due to the development of the sky, the areas around the church will have lots of bungalows reflecting the culture of that nation.

### **Greater Mumbai's Environs**

The physiography of Greater Mumbai has evolved from coconut gardens, rice fields, fishing grounds to cotton mills, docks, and railways in the 19th century and more recently to supermarkets, high-rise buildings and urban slums. The slow pace of soil erosion over the centuries that carries heavy soil erosion during heavy rains has increased several times since the 18th century due to severe deforestation. Since 1990, land restitution has reached 72 sq km and since then land reclamation has been steadily increasing. The integration of the islands of Mumbai with its surroundings has completely changed the configuration. Land restitution has been on the rise in Greater Mumbai. Churches were located in such beautiful places and provided spiritual help.

### **Churches-A Repository of Heritage Management**

Conservation and restoration is a technology dedicated to the preservation of future cultural heritage. Conservation activities include testing, documentation, treatment, and conservation protection, supported by research and education. Numerous human actions are affected by physical phenomena such as increasing heat, moisture, and contact with ultra-violet light. They should be protected in a controlled environment to reduce levels of damage. Museums are a storehouse of artefacts and cultural treasures.

Conservation is an important aspect of museum policy and collection care. It is an important task for museum staff members to build and maintain a safe environment for the groups they care for.

Interactive conservation means any act of conservationist that involves direct contact between the conservationist and the magnified objects. Interventional therapies may involve cleaning, stabilizing, repairing, or replacing parts of the original material.

- 1) The institution must prioritize the provision of safe collection conditions in their possession.
- 2) Every collection center must make an alternative strategy to shield its collection and encourage its workforce to maintain it.
- 3) Each institution must give its staff members the responsibility to manage clusters.
- 4) People at different categories at the administration and the economic segment is required take responsibility for providing services that will allow their collections to survive.

Conservation provides a paradigm not only for repairing things when they are damaged, but for the broader social behavior of care, in which one individually and collectively take responsibility for action. Conservation work is guided by ethical values. They take the kind of ethics that apply.

### **Heritage Essence and Archeology**

The primary purpose of assessing the value of a heritage is to produce a brief statement of value, which summarizes the values of a place, site, or object. The statement will form the basis of a management decision that will affect the future of the item. The main purpose of the archeological value assessment is to determine if the archeological resource, deposit, site or feature is a cultural-residual value. In archeological sites assessed as containing 'residues' understanding the value values is important, as

these sites are non-renewable sources. Like other natural resources, they must be managed now and in the future.

Archaeological remains are one type of natural heritage. It includes a variety of heritage items namely: places, buildings, works, fossils, moving objects, and important historical or heritage sites. It also provides various measures for the protection and management of different types of natural resources. It protects the heritage, but archeological remains are also protected from being moved or mined by the use of artifact provisions. This safeguards the unidentified relics which belong to the community physical inheritance, due to certain reasons have not been recorded in the official inheritance documents.

### **Cultural Heritage Management**

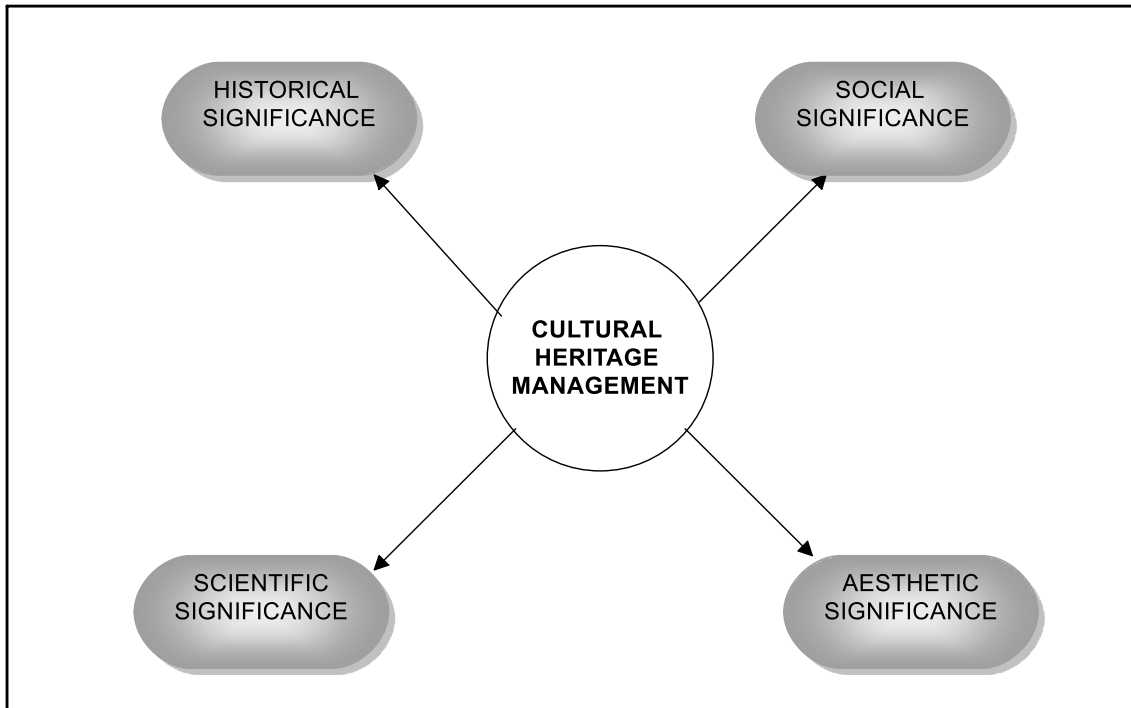
Cultural heritage management, in fact, is part of social engineering, where tangible remnants of the past (and present) are preserved selectively based on values currently held by most people. Indeed, the protection of heritage sites is possible only in the long run if the land is “approved” or owned by community.

There are 4 aspects to know-how the significance of cultural heritage websites. These elements help to determine management regulations and tactics relying at the place. Its miles therefore very crucial to recognize and determine the value before embarking on a heritage project. (figure 1)

The 4 foremost factors are

- Ancient importance: The age or courting to the historic era, character, or occasion. historical significance is an extraordinarily easy and overbearing trait in history management.
- Communal significances: social significance is hard to envision. It refers back to the social, religious, and other community-orientated values attributed to an area.
- Artistic importance: refers to this unique sense of the significance of a place. This can be in terms of architecture, scale, or maybe the designs visible at the vicinity.
- Methodical importance: refers back to the scope or possibility of medical findings from a domain, monument, or vicinity. Right here the importance lies more within the information which could yield out of understanding and gaining knowledge of the region or web page. This may more often than not be attributed to archeological websites or historic monuments.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT**



Authors Compilation

Figure-1

**Challenges facing Greater Mumbai Heritage Sites and conservation measures -**

The precious places of worship of Mumbai should be celebrated and revered as spiritual centers and permanent places in our communities. Today, the owners of precious places of worship face many challenges. These may include congregation downturns, declining incomes, and rising costs, aging stock stocks, public safety and accessibility, housing pressures, adapting to new forms of worship, and changing attitudes. At the same time, many valuable places of worship are important to a large community such as a wealth of cultural heritage or interests, as well as spiritual centers and community services. Many cultural structures change or change over time, but places of worship may differ in that they often have more and more spiritual values than cultural values. Valuable places of worship may be considered “living treasures” because of the constant need to change or adapt to new philosophies, doctrines, or practices of worship. This should be taken into account when determining the best way to preserve a valuable place of worship.

Deciding on the conservation, designation, and demolition of buildings constructed or converted as places of worship, recognizing their unique features and conditions, and helping them to continue to function as centers of worship and activity in communities must be a citizen’s ultimate goal. The spiritual significance of a community in many different places, and deciding what makes a place a “place of worship” can be a community or a personal decision. Protective measures should be applied to non-functional buildings such as places of worship and those that are no longer used for this purpose and

that may be considered for sustainable use. "Places of worship" is a collective term for churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, houses of worship (eg within convents or seminaries), places of worship, meeting places, or other meeting places for religious purposes. Proper planning can provide a framework for the protection of heritage resources and archeological resources. A number of tools will be required to identify and protect buildings with a high value or cultural interest: namely, the power to establish a heritage committee, the power to establish a heritage register, the power to designate and manage changes in individual buildings and heritage sites, conditions for determining cultural value or interest; Greater Mumbai.

The preservation of a valuable place of worship begins with an understanding of the full range of community heritage resources. Heritage exploration usually involves: that is, research to collect and record information about the area, determining the "value of cultural heritage or interest" based on provincial regulations, and input from heritage and community coordinators, research and evaluation documents, the process, the preparation of the "statement of value for cultural heritage or interest" and the definition of "heritage symbols".

### **Greater Mumbai Heritage Buildings.**

The records of Mumbai gives many historical past homes and ancient sites. Most are positioned south of Mumbai, as traditionally, the metropolis's get admission to point was via the harbor. The southern part of the metropolis is home to the local fort, the downtown colonial metropolis of Bombay that was as soon as fortified with strong walls. Mumbai had 591 registered houses when you consider that 2012. These consist of buildings, archeological web sites, colonies, factories, domestic buildings, and public spaces. A consultative committee known as "The Mumbai heritage Conservation Committee" directs the technique. All activities associated with historical past systems need to be permitted with the aid of this committee. History systems are categorized as Grade I, Grade IIA, Grade IIB, or Grade III. Most of the buildings had been built during the British generation, whether in Victorian Neo-Gothic structure, Indo-Saracenic Revival or Neoclassical patterns Elephanta Caves and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station known as global history sites. Mumbai is likewise home to a big range of artwork Deco buildings. , with the most important quantity,of buildings . Many of those homes are movie theaters, along with Eros Cinema and Regal Cinema, a series of artwork Deco condominium buildings line the city's waterway, Marine drive. Considering the importance of keeping the Mumbai heritage, the Maharashtra District government carried out the background Conservation Act in 1995 with the aid of amending policies D.C,in this regard, 615 systems / sites are listed inside the residences / background sites and are divided into three classes based on their historical / Civil historical significance. This changed into a step towards trade in phrases of the city's background conservation due to the fact without such law those history Monuments might not have the kind of legal protection they need and the fast growth of the town, the historical past historical past government. of Maharashtra also took steps to keep and guard the Mumbai history by means of forming a formal committee particularly. The Mumbai heritage Committee advises the Municipal Commissioner on pointers referring to listed systems / historical past websites. in addition, MMR. The heritage Conservation Society promotes studies / listing of homes / background websites in Mumbai and the city of Mumbai. Government such as the department of Archeology, the Archaeological Survey of India have also been worried in the restoration / protection work. Several NGOs paintings on this field. There may be therefore adequate manipulate in



place to make certain the proper protection and protection of the Mumbai history. Further to first rate homes / sites, Elephant Caves and the CST building have already been awarded international heritage sites.

### Conclusion-

Greater Mumbai calls for a clear and consistent commitment to government on background conservation, a strong and comprehensive history policy constructed with full public participation, comprehensive and phased guide guidelines and institutional plans with the intention to make certain that coverage and regulation are applied and that an unbiased and independent, non-income, accountable and accountable employer of historical past property for the gain of present and future generations. This calls for a actual public / personal partnership method - not a basis held through the government or trusted however fully incorporated by means of the general public and the authorities and experts in the area of heritage conservation, now not authorities selections, without connection with public opinion and empathy, to what may additionally or may not be preserved. but, such an method additionally locations a burden on the personal sector to play its role no longer most effective by using contributing to the formulation of policy or law however additionally by means of contributing to the financial costs worried in making sure that our valuable property are surpassed directly to destiny generations as a suitable and appropriate circumstance to be used and preserved.

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