

# Report on the Monuments of Northern Nepal

(continued)

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## Monuments of Sindhu Palchock District

The development of Buddhism in the districts lying East of Kathmandu is intimately related with the religious activities of the valley of Kathmandu and the monastic centers of the Sherpa region.

The main pilgrimage route from Tibet to Kathmandu passed through this region and communications are quite easy between the upper valleys and the hills of Central Nepal.

As said in the Introduction the major religious centers are the monasteries of Bagang, Bigu, Junbesi and Pangboche and religious and related social activities developed around these poles.

### Temple of Rishingo/In Nepali: Lisankhu Lisankhu Panchayat/Sindhu Palchock District

The village of Rishingo is built on both sides of a ridge running east-west and separating the valley of the Chauri Khola from the north on the main trade route linking the

valley of Kathmandu and East Nepal.

The population is Tamang, from the Yondzan clan.

The old temple, Tashi Dargye Ling, at an altitude of 1960 m, now in ruin, dominates the settlement to the east (there are very few remains and one chorten). Its external size was 6 x 8 m.

### The Temple of Rishingo/Mane Gang Chapel Kundeling

The walls are built with stones bedded in mortar (exter. dim: 9,25 m x 10,40 m). The roof, covered with corrugated iron sheets. An open porch.

On the first story rooms used for residence of visiting lamas.

The chapel (dim.: 9,15 m x 9,20 m - H: 3,25 m). The altar built in stone faces South-West. The main images represent Guru Dragpo, Chenrezi, the Buddhas of the Three Times, Guru Rinpoche, Senge Dong Chen, and a series

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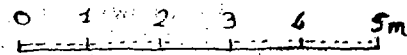
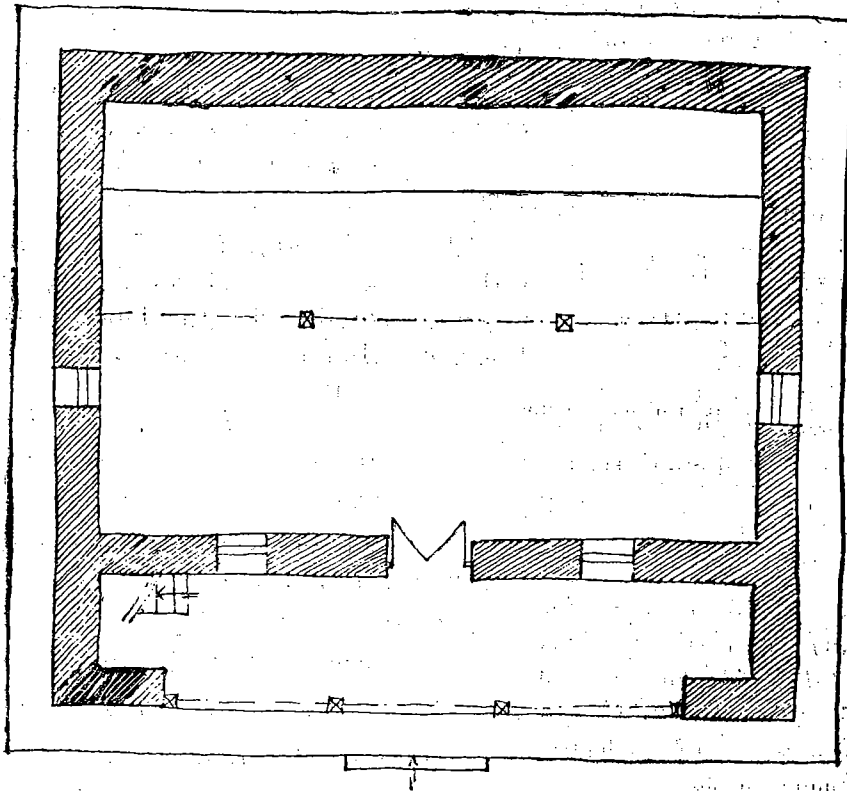
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of small images of deities on a lower shelves. (roof, upper story). The 1980 earthquake has caused some damage to the walls and roof.  
On the walls paintings on cloth are in very bad state.

**Present Condition**

**Worship**

The building is not in a good state 8 lamas of the Yondzan clan are the



*Sindhu Palchock district, Temple of Fishingo; temple extern. dim. : 9,25 x 10,40 m.,  
Chapel : 6,00 x 9,20 m.*

caretakers of the temple, in turn, this creates problems.

There are more than 200 members in the community and among them 30 lamas.

#### Religious Property

A **Niji Guthi** (private donation) is attached to the temple (the revenue of irrigated dry land i. e. 12 pathi rice, 4 pathi maize).

#### Major Festivals

Full moon of Kartik

Full moon of Jeth

Full moon of Saun

10th day of the festival of Dasai, collective fast.

The dances, 'cham' are performed during special ceremonies such as the **Rabne** (benedictions) and **Gyewa**, after death rituals.

Private chapel of Lama Pema Shidi Yondzan

Group of houses of Bato Muni Tol. In this chapel newly built next to a very big house are stored the 103 volumes of the **Kanjur**, printed in Lhasa (Narhang), a gilded image of Chenrezi, a **chorten**-reliquary and an image of Gombo Chashi.

The owner of the chapel has also in his possession an inscription on stone coming from the ruined temple of Rishingo.

#### Other Buildings

Lama Dorje Chowang Yondzan, known under the name of Dap Lama, having the powers of stopping hail suggested to the villagers of Rishingo to build a prayer wall on the ridge, a shelter for travellers on the northern side of the ridge and a fountain, **dhara**.

The **pati**, a two storeyed building (exter. dim. : 3,00 m x 8,00 m) in Newari style, with fine wood carvings, is now collapsing.

The fountain is built with dressed stones a water-spout is carved in the shape of a sea monster. The surrounding structure has a height of 1,2 m.

Religious constructions such as **chorten**, **Mane walls**, gateways **Kaka ling**.

The **Kaka ling** (3,50 m x 3,50 m) built on a square plan, has a roof covered with tiles. The ceiling and inner side walls are painted.

A long **Mendang** (35 m long) stone wall supports a series of slates engraved with deities or the religious formula **Om Mani Padme Hum**.

#### Temple of Atarpur/In Tamang : Andarbung

The settlements of Atarpur are scattered on a slope facing East at an altitude of 1900 m.

The population is Tamang.

#### Temple of Andarbung/Lama Tol Tahsi Sandeling

The construction is rectangular (7,15 m x 8,60 m). Walls in random stones bedded in mortar.

The roof is covered with tiles and the porch with slates.

A structure of the **Gumaune** type under the roof.

The porch is supported by 6 pillars. (H : 1,70 m).

Chapel (dim. : 4,90 m x 7,00 m - H : 2,70 m). Four wooden pillars support the

ceiling. On the altar facing East images of Guru Dragpo, Chenrezi Sakyamuni, Guru Rinpoche, Senge Dongghen, they are enshrined in wooden frames. On the right side racks for books.

**Present Condition**

The walls are damp and the roof is in bad condition.

The building has been erected in 1930 A. D. by Lama Dorje Wangyal, Muktan.

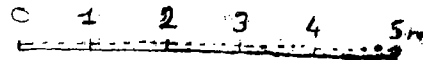
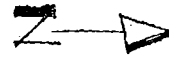
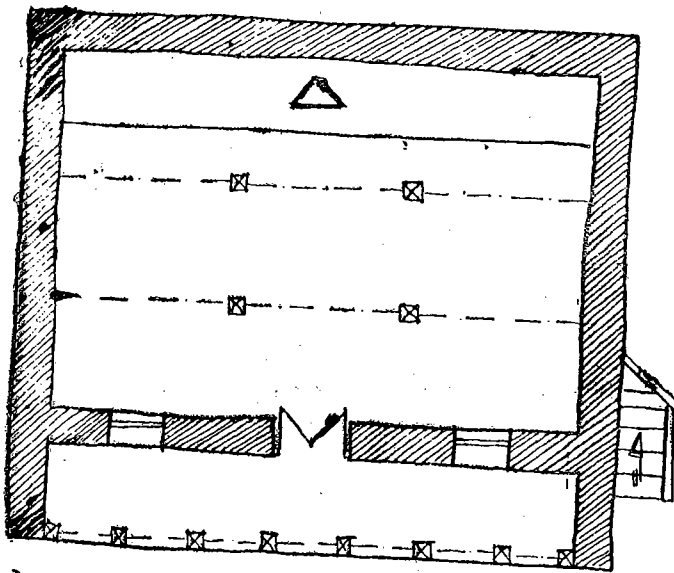
The lama of the Muktan clan, is a member of the Nyingmapa sect.

**Festivals**

Full moon of Saun

Full moon of Kartik

Full moon of Chait



*Sindhu Palchock district, Temple of Atarpur, Lama tol; temple extern d.m. : 7,15 x 8,60 m. Chapel : 4,90 x 7,00 m.*

### Temple of Atarpur-Mijhar Tol Tashi Potaling Gombo

The building (exter. dim. : 5,65 m x 6,55 m) is one storeyed. The walls are in stone. The roof is covered with tiles. The entrance porch faces East.

The chapel (3,35 m x 5,60 m - H : 2,20 m). On the altar, images of Guru Dragpo, Guru Rinpoche and Senge Dongma.

On the walls a series of paintings representing the Tranquil and Fierce Divinities.

### Present Condition

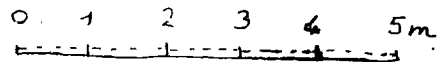
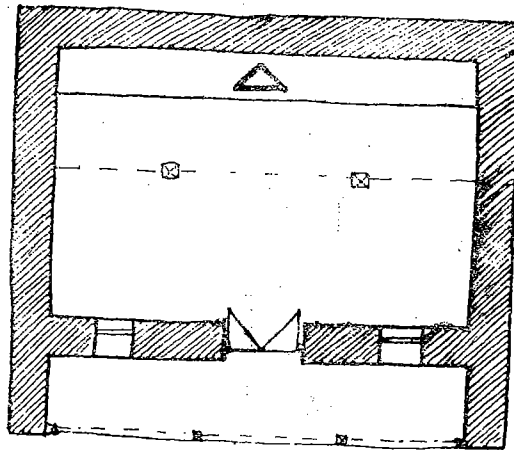
The building is in bad condition.

Lama Nyima Tsering Muktan built the temple.

The present owner is Ugyen Pasang Muktan.

### Temple of Thulo Atarpur/ Pangjet Tashi Tsering Gyang

The temple (exter. dim. : 5,00 m x 6,50 m) dominates the village of Pangjet and faces East.



*Sindhu Palchock district, Temple of Atarpur, Mij'ar Tol*  
*temple extern. dim : 5,65 m. x 6,55 m; Chapel ; 3,35 x 5,60 m.*

The roof is covered with slates.

#### Present Condition

The building is in very bad condition.

The two lamas who are in charge of the temple, Druba Gyamtso Yondzan and Dawa Gyamtso Muktan belong to the Nyingmapa sect.

#### Festivals

Full moon of Saun  
Full moon of Kartik  
Full moon of Baisakh  
Full moon of Chait

### Temple of Pakar Jethal Panchyat

The settlement of Pakar is located on a ridge oriented East West at an altitude of 1800 m.

Several religious constructions, **chorten**, Mani walls and Kaka ling gateway are distributed along the trail.

### Shugo Gombo or Urgyen Ling Gyang

The temple is set on a western slope with a background of terraced fields.

The temple has two dwellings around it.

The structure follows the typical pattern and has two storeys (exter. dim. : 9,50 m x 7,50 m). The walls are of split stone bedded in mortar and set on a low platform (H : 0,65).

The main entrance is on the South.

The roof covering is in slates.

The chapel (6,20 m x 6,20 m - H : 2,30). The central image is Dorje Chang.

The ceiling of the chapel with timber

beams and carved bearers supporting joists. The ground floor is of wide boards set directly on the earth below.

#### Present Condition

The temple is in very bad condition due to lack of maintenance. The timber used, Chilaune, has been attacked by wood worms.

The first temple was built in 1843 A.D. Two documents, one **Lalmohar** and one **Tamapa'ra** stated a donation from the king of Nepal. These documents have disappeared. The present temple was built in 1943 A.D.

An entrance porch (1,55 m x 6,20 m) gives access to the assembly hall.

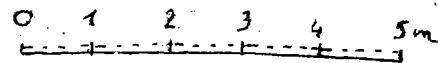
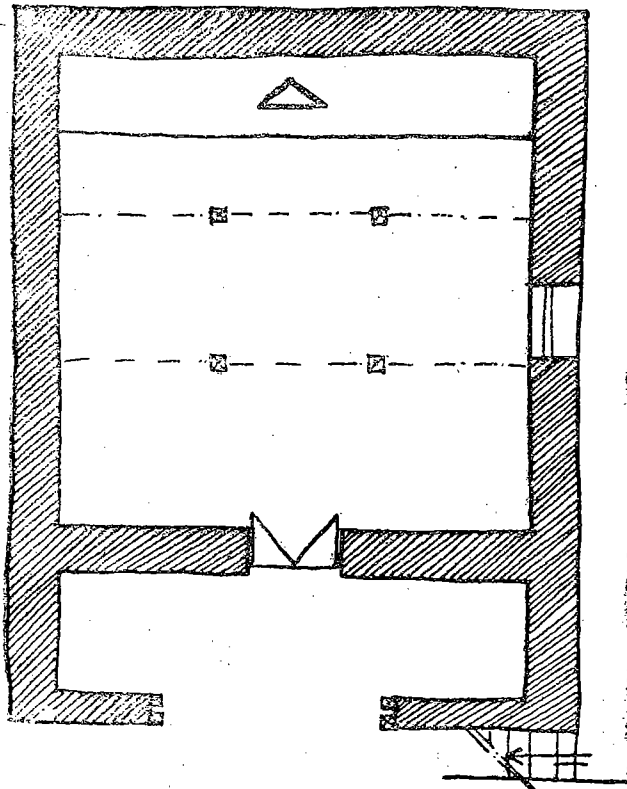
Shugo Gombo belongs to the Tamang clan, Thing, and the present lama is Dewa Senge Thing. There are 15 monks attached to the temple.

During the 1854 A.D. war against Tibet, the lamas of the Thing clan accompanied the Nepalese army to protect it from the hail sent by the Tibetan lamas.

To thank their act of protection the king of Nepal asked what they wanted, they requested the right to protect "Bhatgaon-Satgaon territories" from hail and so collect a tax called **Lama Pathi**. This right was given to them, sanctioned by a **Lalmohar**.

#### Festivals

Full moon of Saun  
Full moon of Baisakh  
First day of Magh Sankranti  
First day of Saun



*Sindhu Palchock district, Temple of Thulo Pakar; temple extern. dim. : 9,50 x 7,50 m.,  
Chapel : 6,20 x 6,20 m.*

**Temple of Daragaon  
Devasthan Panchayat (S P.  
District)**

located at an altitude of 1500 m, set on a north western slope with a background of fields an oak forest and overlooking the deep valley of the Bhote Kosi.

The temple of Tashi Chopel Ling is

The old location of the temple was higher up on the ridge.

The structure follows the traditional pattern and stores.

The chapel ( 3,90 m x 5,40 m -H : 2,40 m ) has been renovated in 1978 A. D.

The paintings represent the Tranquil and Fierce divinities.

#### **Present Condition**

The building is in good condition.

The Bomdzan clan/ Chakra Bahadur Bomdzan ( Lama ) owns the temple.

The keeper is a learned lama, Kusho Pema ( born in 1910 A. D. ) in Khasa, Tibet, member of the Drugpa Kagyu sect and son of the famous incarnation Gosar Tulku. He is the religious teacher of the Tamang lamas of the districts of Sindhu Palchock, Kabre and Dolakha.

#### **The Monastery of Bagang**

The monastic settlement of Bagang (S. I. Bakhan Ghyang) is situated at an altitude of 2490 m in the valley of the Indrawati, district of Sindhu Palchock. It overlooks the valley and is set in an oak forest, on a south facing slope. The site was chosen because of its isolation.

It is a large complex of buildings, comprising a temple, dwellings of the abbot and monks, common kitchen for festivals

The lama founder was a Bhutanese, Sherab Dorje, from the Drugpa-Kagyupa sect; he made the plan and called Bhutanese craftsmen.

The main temple is of an unusual design in Nepal, but will certainly influence in the future the construction of other shrines.

The temple ( extern. dim. : 22,00 m x 11,00 m ) is a two storeyed building facing South-West.

The assembly hall on the first floor is reached up by a flight of steps to the east of the building.

The assembly hall ( 11,00 m x 11,00 m ) follows the pattern of four centrally placed pillars supporting the structure above. The altar is at the northern end.

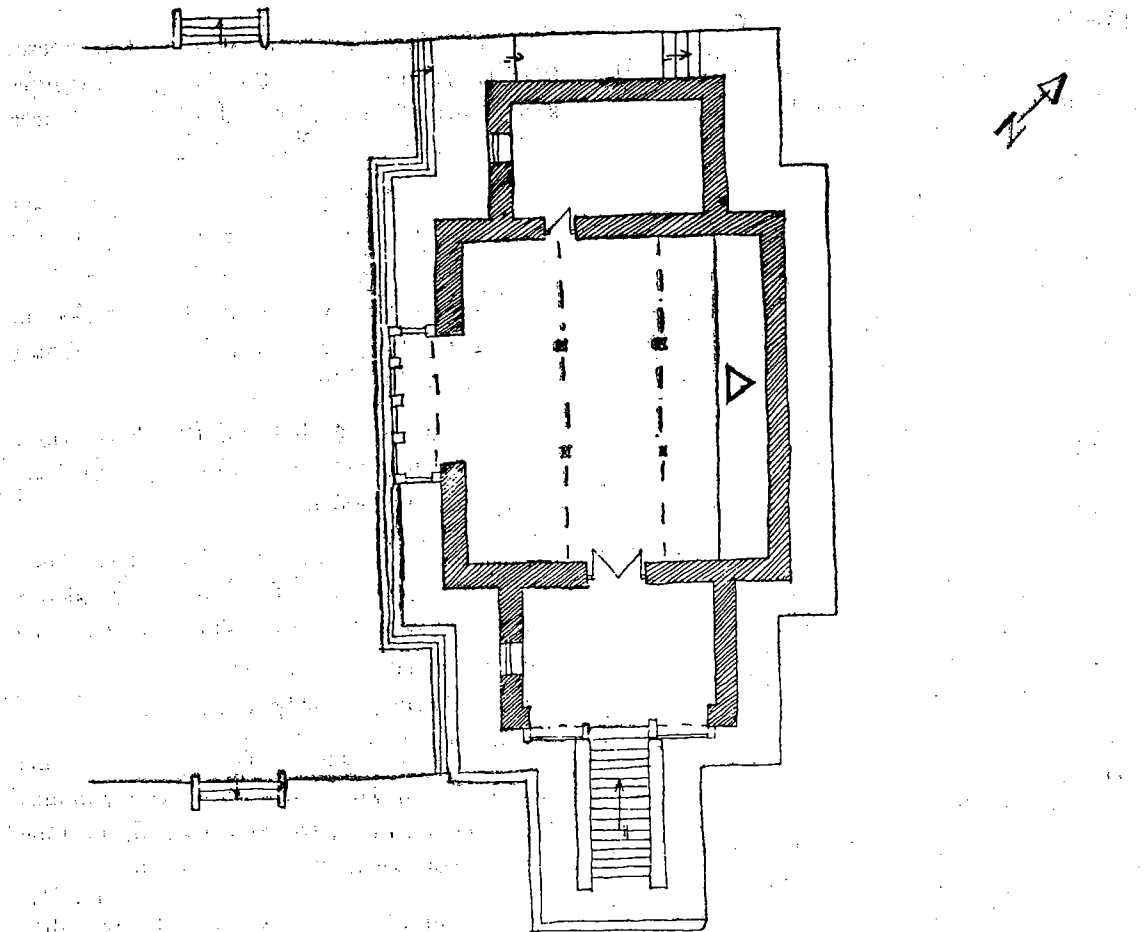
The courtyard is paved in stone.

The monastery was founded by lama Sherab Dorje. Today there are twenty monks of the Drugpa Kagyu sect. Bagang is now an important religious education center.

The monks are supported by their families and for the festivals by the benefactors of the villages.

(To be continued)





*Sindhu Palchock district, Monastery of Bagang; temple edifice, dim. 22,00 x 12,00 m.,  
 Assembly hall : 11,00 x 11,00 m.*