

05. SRI SOMESHWARA TEMPLE

Place - Gangavara

District : Bengaluru Rural
Taluk : Devanahalli
Locality : Choudappana Halli

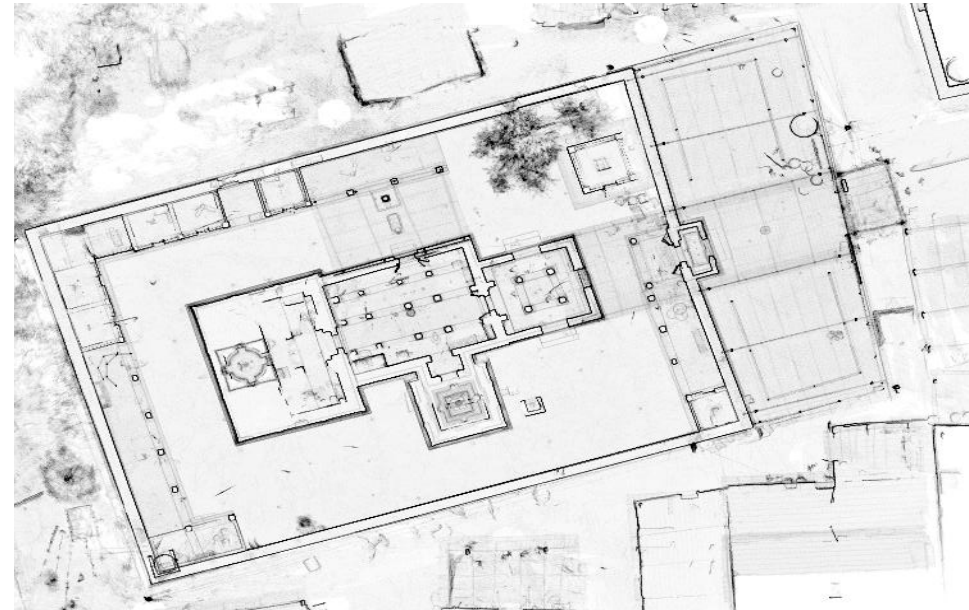
Geo - Coordinates:

Lat : 13° 9'4.46"N

Long : 77°45'51.50"E



Overview



History

The temple consists of a *garbhagriha*, a *sukanasi*, and a *navaranga*. The south door of the *navaranga* opens into another hall perhaps used as a Vishnu shrine. On the northern side of the *navaranga* is a closed *mukhamantapa* with doorways provided to the east, north and west. This complex is located in the centre of a large courtyard surrounded by a *prakara*. The *mahadvara* is on the northern side of the *prakara*. A linga is placed in the cella. Relief elephants facing each other are on the *sukanasi* doorframe. An image of Parvati and another of Bhairava reclining on a dog are kept in the *sukanasi*. The *navaranga* is a low roofed hall, with walls about 2 m high, four of whose pillars are of the round bell shaped variety while the others are rude octagonal Chola works. Images of Surya, a bull, some Naga stones etc, are placed in the *navaranga*. The *mukhamantapa* in front of the *navaranga* has four granite pillars with rounded shaft, pendent garlands, etc., indicative of Chola work. The wall of the main temple is plain and pilastered. The *Valabhi* has a series of *hamsas* and aquatic animals. There is a low *ekatalavimana* above. The *prakara* had a cloister running all round inside but now only a few pillars are remaining. The inner porch of the *mahadvara* is supported by two lion based pillars of the Pallava type. Above the *mahadvara* is a Chola type low boat shaped granite tower. The temple appears to have been built during Ganga period in about 8th century A.D. Additions and reconstructions were made in about 1100 A.D. by the Cholas. Some parts appear to have been remodelled during the Hoysala period.