

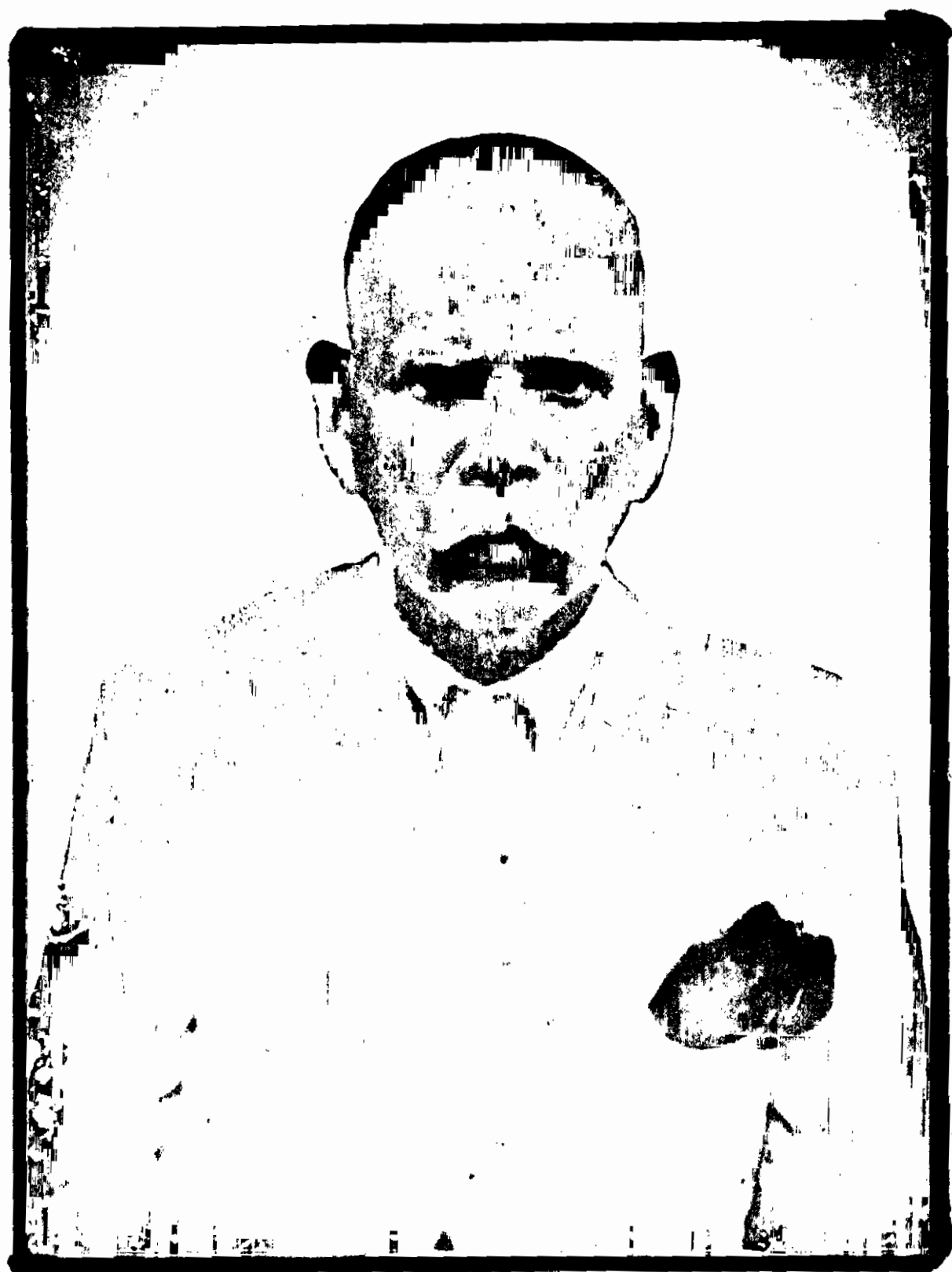
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1983

P. RAMSOOKMOHAN

13849



Mr. Senthil Mohanji.

INTRODUCTION

The subject I have done research study on is the late Mr. Sewthal Mohangi. Much of the information was gathered from his only living son, Mr. Rajaram Mohangi now retired teacher and a prosperous business man.

The late Mr. S. Mohangi was born in Gorukpur, India and came to this country when he was 8-9 years old. By sheer dint of hard work, he became a leading personality in the district a prosperous farmer and business man in Isnembe.

Among other official positions, he was the foundation member of the Natal Indian Cane Growers Association, Vice chairman of the Shree Sanathan Dharam Sabba (Natal), chairman and trustee of the Isnembe Indian School, trustee of the Shri vishnu temple and an executive member of the Tongaat Indian Mill Group.

Mr. S. Mohangi was always kindly disposed and gave generously in all charitable and educational causes. It was through his dint and sheer effort the Benevolent and Old Age Home came to realization in Tongaat.

He died on September 15, 1952. Mr S. Mohangi leaves behind seven sons, five daughters and a host of grand children.

2. Place of Origin :

Mohangi Sewthal was second son of late Sewthal. Place of birth: Dharpund Ghila ^{Gorukpur} Gokulpur, Khama Radurapur in 1883, date and month unknown.

3. Socio-Eco Background :

Mr Mohangi Sewthal's father was a farmer - a small-holder. He cultivated rice. Caste : Kahar.

4. Reasons for Leaving Original Country :

Mr Sewthal Mohangi was a boy of about 8 - 9 years old when he came to South Africa. Mr Sewthal was abducted by his in-laws i.e Mr Beharie.

Mr Beharie came to S. Africa as an indentured labourer. On his journey to S. Africa Mrs Beharie, his wife, gave birth to a daughter, named Scogrie whom later married Sewthal Mohangi. Beharie served and fulfilled his contract for Tongaat Group. On expiry of contract - (indenture) - he returned to India. While in India he got his daughter married to Sewthal Mohangi i.e he was about 8/9 yrs old. His future in India was bleak so he decided to return to S. Africa, to resume his job at the Tongaat Group.

Mr and Mrs Mohangi went to bid his in-laws farewell - at the port of Calcutta. Mr Beharie put them on board as well.

Mr Sewthal's mother became anxious when they failed to return after some hours had lapsed. She set out on foot looking for her son and daughter-in-law. On her way to the Port of Calcutta, she was caught in

the monsoon flood. This resulted in her death, which was learned when Mr Sewthal went back to India in 1950.

5. Dates of Departure and Arrival to S. Africa :

Came to South Africa in 1894. Date and month unknown.

6. Name of Ship and Port of Entry :

UNKNOWN, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS NO RECORD.

7. First Place of Settlement :

Mr Beharie came back to S. Africa and resumed his job at the Tongaat Group in the vicinity of Tongaat/Esnembe area.

Mr Sewthal being a young boy followed his in-laws into this area. Another reason was that he was dependent on Mr Beharie for support.

8. First Occupation :

Mr Sewthal was young, so his first job was that of a handy boy for the Tongaat Group - delivering building material. He earned five shillings a month.

9. Subsequent Places of Settlement and Occupation :

Mr Sewthal Mohangi and his father-in-law worked together. They saved money and eventually his father-in-law bought a farm in Isnembe. The area in which he bought the farm was Golomie. At present this land is owned by the Tongaat Group - on this area the Tongaat Bakery is built. On the farm they cultivated maize, beans. Mr Mohangi Sewthal worked the

4

farm with his father-in-law.

As a result of family dispute, Sewthal moved out. His savings were given to his in-laws for safe-keeping. When he requested for his savings, Mr Beharie deducted Boarding & lodging charges and his passage fare to S. Africa. With the result he was left with a few pounds.

Mr Sewthal Mohangi moved away and settled in Ndoninie, which is in the Isenambe area. He leased a farm from a certain Mr A.S. Dykes.

When he arrived on the farm there was no shelter, so he and his wife and their two children set up tarps and spent the night under the wagon (ox-cart). On this farm he cultivated fresh produce.

As business began to thrive he bought his first farm at Spionkop. (Refer to Title Deeds) LOT A.B. 1152, extent 52½ acres, 3 pounds an acre. *(refer to appendix)*

On this farm he planted bananas, mealies and beans. He then entered into a partnership with Mr Ramfakir. They bought and sold fresh produce such as tobacco, beans, maize, which they sold to the customs.

His business was thriving, and in a few years Mr Mohangi became a very rich man. He settled in Isenambe, from here he acquired other land for investment. His second property he bought was in Cato Manor, 53 Jansen Avenue. This land was bought on the names of his sons. Price of property was eleven thousand pounds.

3rd property with house, purchase price 5 thousand pounds at 63 Booth Avenue.

4th property at Sea-Cow lake.

5th property at Hillcrest.

5

The land at Hillcrest was leased out to Y.G. Reddy for 5 hundred pounds. The land at Hillcrest was sold in 1968 to George Rose from Hillcrest. The reason for sale of this land by his son, was that the Africans, whom were evicted from Ukumban area & Cato Manor moved on this land as squatters. The chief claimed this vacant area as crown land. After the controversy was sorted out this farm was sold.

The Mohangi Estate still own a large amount of land in Isenembe. They are regarded as one of the great Indian Sugar barons in this area.

10. Marriage, Birth of Children :

Mr Sewthal Mohangi married at an early age of 8 years. He married the daughter of Mr Beharie in India. He was the proud father of 12 children. Mohangi Sewthal fathered 7 sons and 5 daughters.

a. Sons :

i. Ramnarayan : eldest son, died at an early age, was a taxi driver.
Married with 4 sons and 5 daughters.

ii. Dutchmianarian : 2nd son, farmer, died at young age of 47-48.
Married with 6 sons and 4 daughters.

iii. Ramsooral : 3rd son, farmer, mechanic, cripple, died of stroke.
Married with 5 sons and 7 daughters.

iv. Junkhudar : died when he was 18 years, committed suicide.

v. Rajaram : 70 years old, school teacher, presently residing in

Isnembe, married, 3 sons, 2 daughters.

vi. Jama : farmer, deceased. Has 3 sons & 3 daughters.

vii. Udaban : youngest son, school teacher, died of heart attack, 3 sons & 2 daughters.

b. Daughters :

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| i. Majadie - married | |
| ii. Mohader | } married |
| iii. Begmath | |
| iv. Rawn | |
| v. Chatrakut | |

11. Social, Religious and Political Activities :

Sewthal Mohangi was the first man in Isnembe (Spionkop area) to introduce sugar cane farming. He was also responsible for the foundation of the Natal Cane Growers Association. Other prominent member was Mr Boda-singh. This association was responsible for farmers being allocated quotas for cutting sugar cane.

Mohangi Sewthal got the help of late Mr E.G. Chunno, (principal of Tongaat Indian High) to call up a meeting with Indian farmers such as Boda-singh.

As a result of this meeting an association was formed; of which Mr Sewthal became chairman of the Tongaat Indian Mill Group.

7.

He had no formal education, all his legal matters were done for him by E.G. Choonu.

School - there was no schools at Isnembe. Though he had no formal education he always aimed at getting his children educated.

Through the help of Mr Seebrath they formed a private school in Isnembe. This school was opened in 1928 in the Spionkop area. The expenses was paid by the community of which Sewthal was a large donor.

This private school was the for-runner of the Isnembe State aided Indian School which was moved to Isnembe in 1940. This school was subsidized by the Government.

This school is presently known as the Isnembe High School. Some of the first trustees of the private school were G. Harrenandan Maharaj, T. Rambaran, Jack Persad Maharaj and Mr Sewthal Mohangi, others cannot be remembered.

Temple :

Mr Sewthal Mohangi was also interested in religious activities. He was instrumental in founding the Shri-Harriop Vishnu temple which is situated in Isnembe next to the Dorenkloop primary school. Mohangi Sewthal donated $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for the building of the temple. Also donated funds towards the temple. Mr Sewthal was responsible for purchasing the dome of the temple. He had the dome imported from India through Vellebjee and sons in Tongaat. Cost of the dome was 650 pounds.

8.

Old-Age Homes :

S. Mohangi was approached by G. Hurbans and R.G.T. Watsons - director of Tongaat Group to start the homes - and to follow the scheme.

Two homes were built, one built by Desai and the other by Sewthal Mohangi.

Sewthal Mohangi donated 5 thousand pounds. Homes were also financed by the housing board.

S. Mohangi and K.P. Desai contributed a certain sum of money to the board for 25 years for maintenance of these homes.

The homes are situated in Temple Flats, in Plain Street, Tongaat.

Natal Indian Congress :

Mohangi Sewthal was president of N.I.C. of the Tongaat Branch. He also became the acting chairman of the N.I.C. Mohangi was put on the N.I.C. because he was a prominent member in his community. G. Hurban put him on the board as a figure head. Sewthal was illiterate. He contributed towards the N.I.C. by giving donations.

S. Mohangi's ambition was to start his own school, unfortunately, he failed to achieve this in his life-time.

His sons Rajaram and Ubada^D Mohangi to perpetuate Sewthal's name,

built a school in honour of him. This land was donated by G. Hurbans in memory of his late brother N. Hurbans. The construction and furnishing of the school was done by Mr Rajaram and Udaban Mohangi.

This school is named MOHANGI GOVERNMENT AIDED INDIAN SCHOOL Officially opened on the 20 June 1959 by the director of education, L.J.T. Biebuyck, Esq. One of the guest speakers was Mrs. Fatima Meer a lecturer in social science at Natal University. This school enjoys a P.4 status amongst lush and rolling sugar cane farm, in a little farming complex on the Natal North Coast.

Prominent Indian Cane Growers were present at the official meeting. The director in his speech complimented the builders to have constructed a laternal system which was the best in the country at that time.

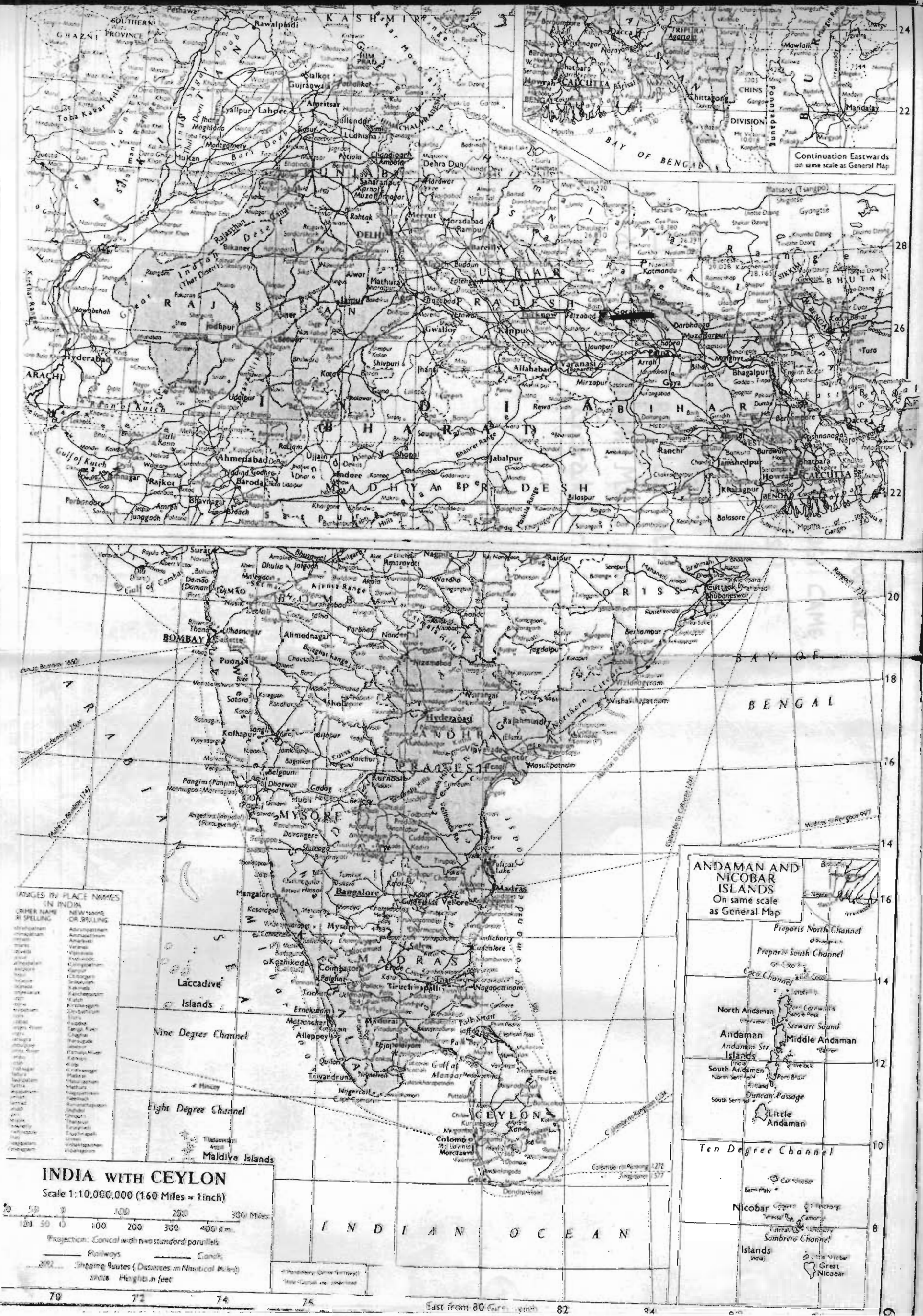
CONCLUSION

This project would have not been materialised had it not been for the following whom I owe my sincerest gratitude:

1. BALWANTH AMEETA : for typing the manuscript.
2. KARAN VINESH : for the use of his transport.
3. NAIDOO NAVENDRA : for sketches of the temple.
4. MOHANGI RAJARAM : for the information on Mr s. Mohangi.
5. RAMRUTHEN V.R. : for proof reading the script.
6. SUKHDEO V.R. : for photo copying.
7. SUKHDEO R. : for photographs.
8. STAFF OF DOCUMENTATION CENTRE.

APPENDICES:

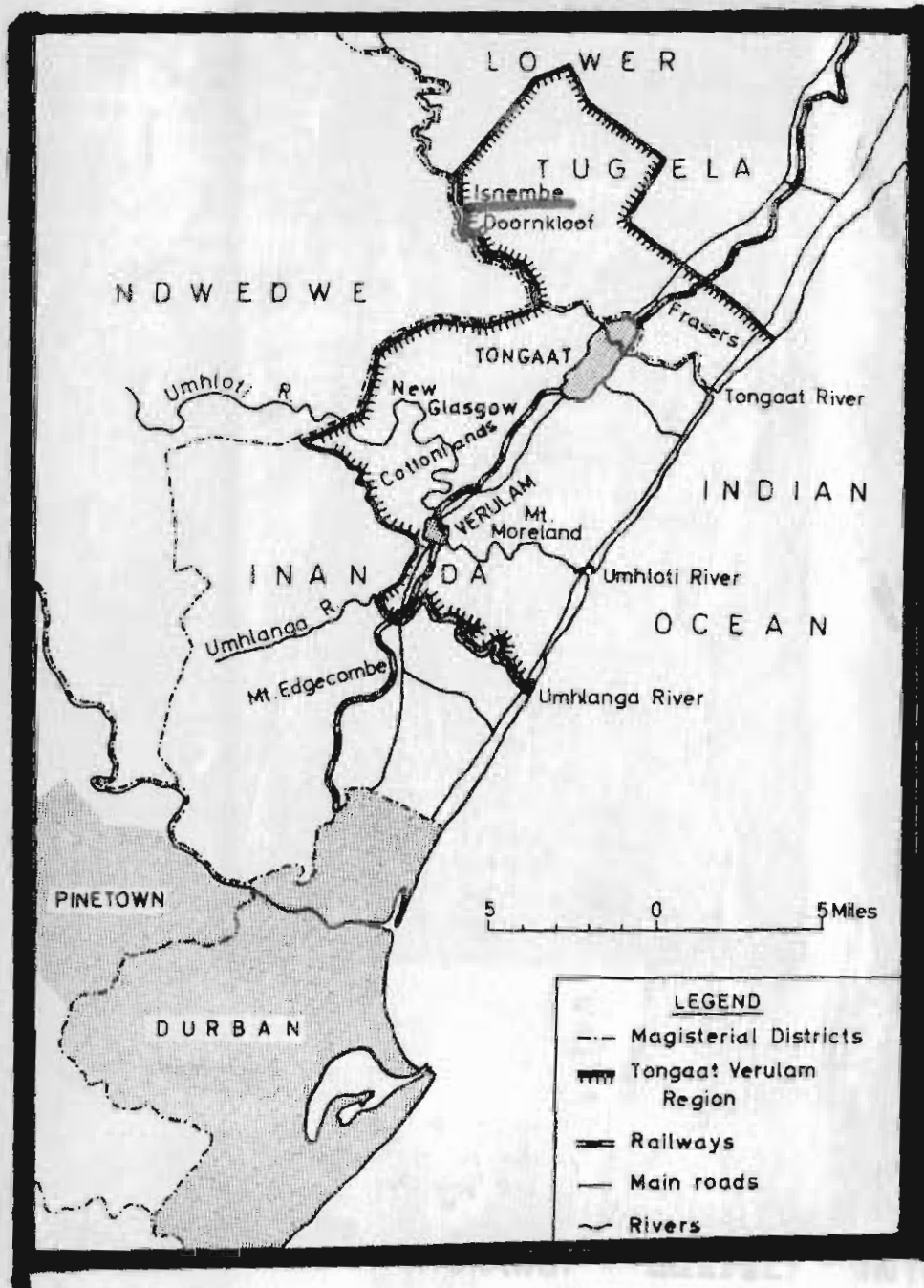
M.A.P.



MAP.

MAP : OF AREA FROM WHERE
MR. SEWTHAL MOHANGI CAME
UTTAR PRADESH

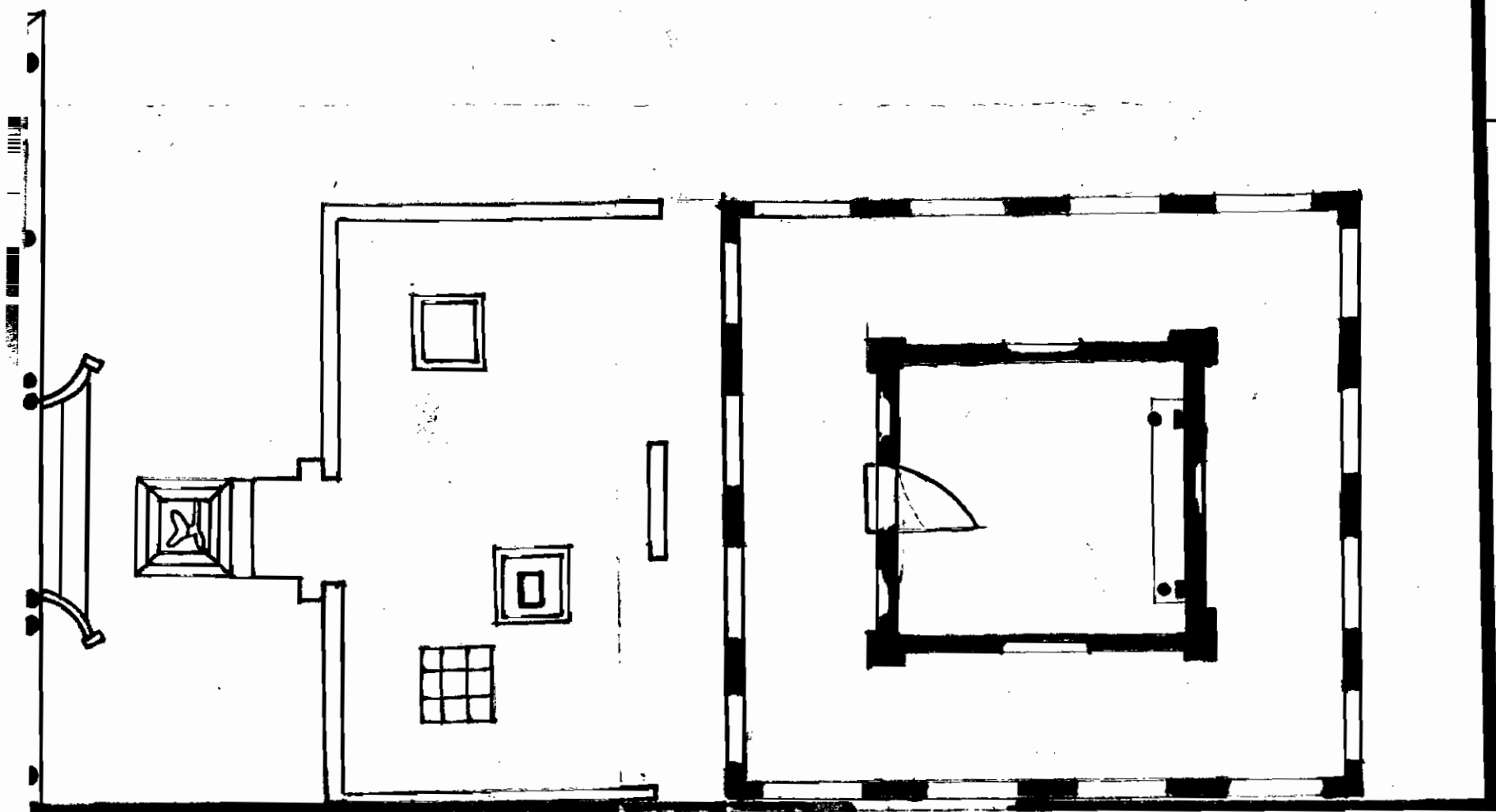
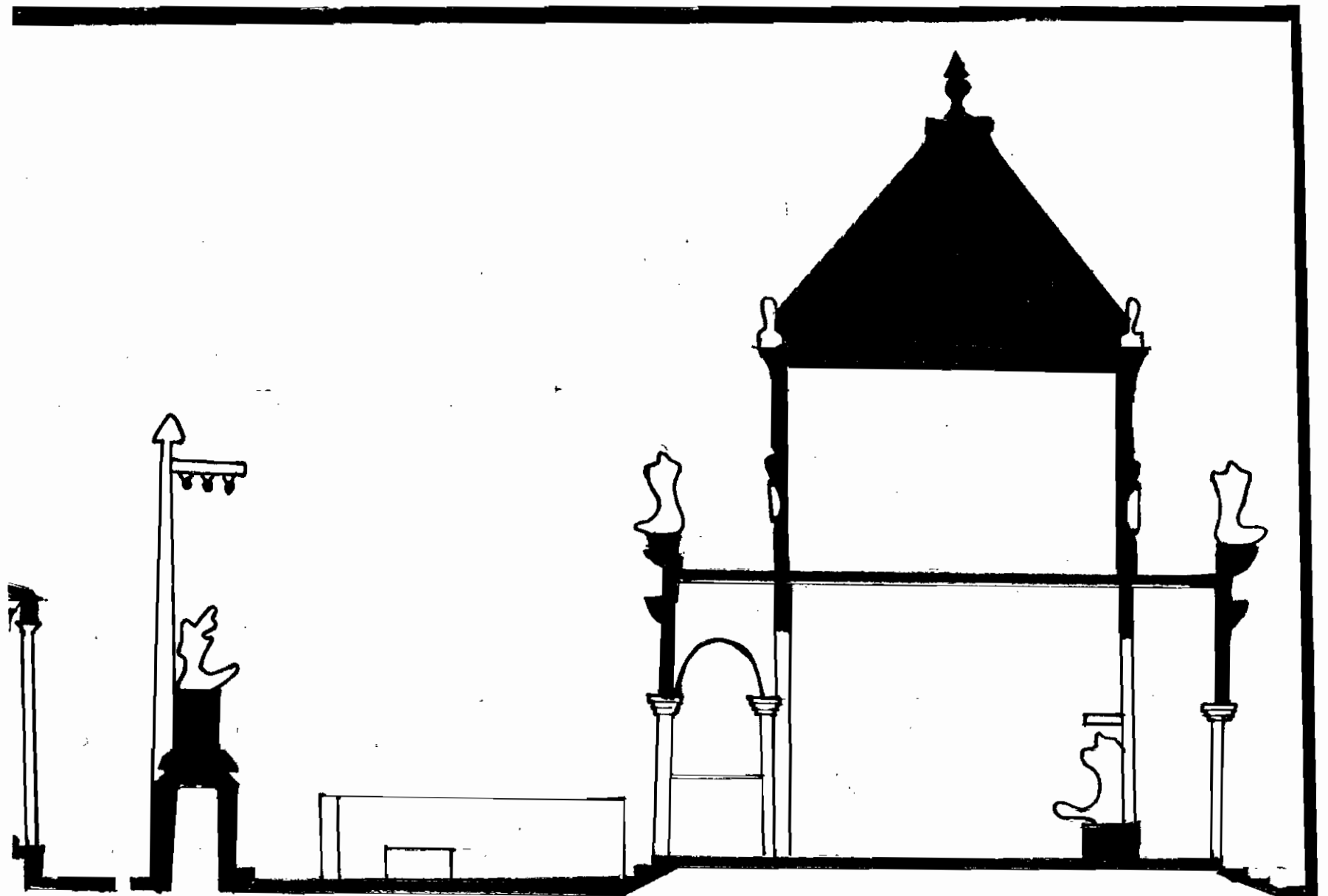
ORANGE MARK denotes
area in which Mr. S. Mohangi
was born Gorakhpur.



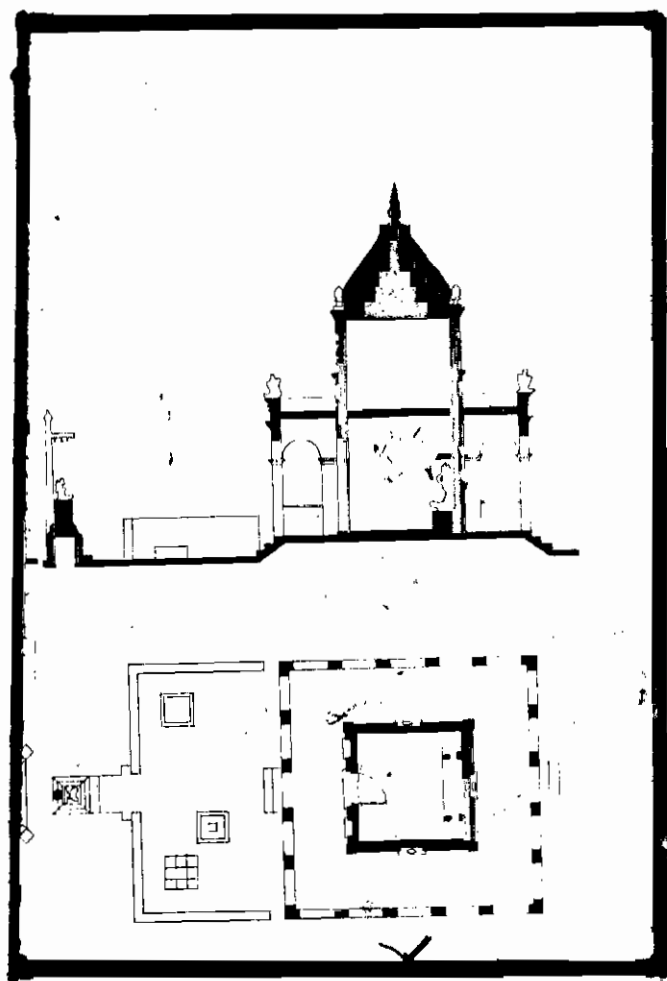
Orange Mark : denotes area in which Mr. S. Mohangi settled in.



Mr. RATARAM MOHANGI SUBJECT INTERVIEWED
ALSO FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL.



GROUND PLAN OF SHRI HAROOP VISHNU
TEMPLE, LAND WHICH WAS DONATED
BY MR. S. MOHINGI IN 1989



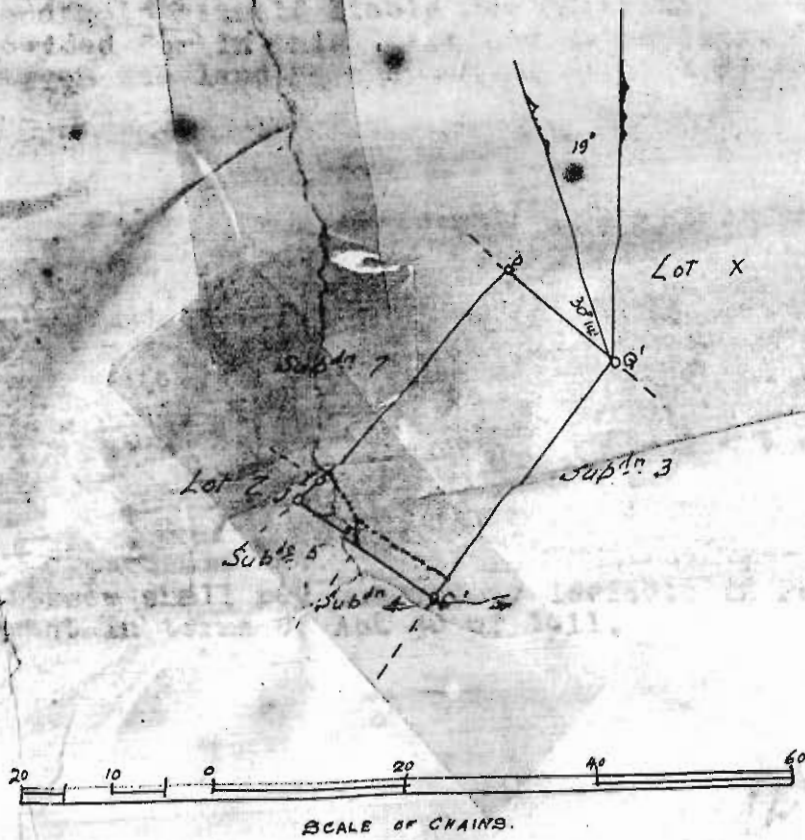


MR. UDAIBAN MOHANGI : RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE FOUNDATION OF MOHANGI GOVT. AIDED
INDIAN SCHOOL

4. ISINEMBE SHREE HARISOOB VISHNU TEMPLE, STANGER.

A wood-and-iron temple was erected by Ganga Maharaj in 1924. Later, his son Haripundan and S. Mohangi, purchased a new site nearby in order to establish a more permanent public temple. Marble *Moorthis* were brought from Jaipur and incorporated into a new brick and concrete building in 1929-34. The design and supervision were carried out by Haripundan himself while the construction work was undertaken by Budrikassie, a local builder. An excellent little building in the North Indian style. A bright circumambulatory surrounds a triple-cubed *sikhara* which houses images of *Garuda*, *Hanuman*, *Krishna* and others in shallow recesses in the octagonal shaft. The unusual, conical dome represents a concerted effort by the designer to break away from the Islamic influence so apparent in most other local North Indian temples.





17.

Provided the Lessee shall have fulfilled all the terms and conditions of this lease he shall have the option of purchasing the said property at the termination of the lease and not before in the sum of TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY THREE POUNDS THREE SHILLINGS AND NINE PENCE (£263. 3. 9.) STERLING. As a consideration for such option the Lessee shall deposit with the Lessor a sum of THIRTEEN POUNDS THREE SHILLINGS (£13. 3. 0.) Sterling, which deposit shall be forfeited in the event of the Lessee not exercising his option, but otherwise ~~be~~ credited to the Lessee as part of the purchase price. Should the Lessee exercise his option of purchase the terms and conditions of the sale and purchase shall in so far as applicable be those contained in the Company's printed form of Contract of Sale a copy of which is attached hereto.

18.

It is a condition precedent of this lease that the Lessee shall during the whole term thereof assume all liabilities of ownership and hold himself liable for outgoings of every description as provided for in this lease and in addition the cost of fencing between the land hereby leased and the adjoining land.

19.

The Lessee shall have the right to deposit with the Lessor any such sum or sums as he may wish, provided the aggregate does not exceed the total purchase price (including the amount of the 5% deposit in terms of Clause 17) and the Lessor engages to allow the Lessee interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of any such deposits or deposits being received prior to the termination of this lease. Should the option not be exercised such deposits (exclusive of the amount of the said 5% deposit) shall be refunded to the Lessee.

20.

The Lessee shall pay stamp duty leviable in respect of this agreement in terms of Act 30 of 1911.

Adhes

Natal Land and Colonization Company, Limited.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

The Company retain all title deeds of property mortgaged to them.

No Contract of Sale shall be binding on the Company until the Purchaser has signed and delivered to the Company in Durban one of these presents and has paid the first instalment of the purchase price to the Company and has obtained a receipt for same.

AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF

the NATAL LAND AND COLONIZATION COMPANY, LIMITED (hereinafter called the Company)

(hereinafter called the purchaser).

The Company agrees to sell and the purchaser agrees to buy upon and subject to the several terms, conditions and provisions hereinafter contained, the property above mentioned, short particulars of which are set out in the Schedule hereto according to the Company's Deeds and Diagrams, which are open for inspection, and the Company is not responsible for any misdescription therein, either in respect to the extent of the land, boundaries or otherwise.

1. The purchase price of the said property shall subject to clause 8 hereof be the sum of _____ payable as follows:—
_____ on the date hereof
_____ the receipt whereof the Company hereby acknowledges) and the balance in equal instalments of _____ on the _____ day of _____
_____ and on the _____ day of _____ in each
subsequent year until the whole is paid, but the purchaser may anticipate the date of any or all such instalments, the balance of the said purchase price for the time being remaining unpaid to bear interest at the rate of six per centum per annum payable half-yearly on the _____ day of _____ and on _____ day of _____ in each year, the first of such payments falling due and to be made on the _____ day of _____ next and calculated from the date hereof. All monies payable under this agreement to be paid at the Company's Offices in Durban. The Company does not undertake to send notice of any payments of money falling or fallen due.

3. The purchaser shall pay every expense connected with the survey and transfer of the said property, and with ascertaining the correct position of beacons and erecting the same. He shall also pay the expense and incidental to any Mortgage Bond he may pass to the Company in accordance with these presents, and the registration thereof, and shall be bound to pay transfer duty to the Government through the Company within six months certain from the date of sale, and the Company shall hold the receipt for such duty pending transfer to the purchaser.

4. The purchaser shall, pending payment of the full purchase price and on the day of purchase, insure the joint names of the Company and the purchaser, and thereafter keep insured all buildings on the property at full value against loss or damage by fire, and shall punctually pay the premiums and immediately produce the receipts therefor in the hands of the Company, who shall also hold the policy of insurance.

*Commt. of Oaths
Toussaint*

5. The Company is entitled to all rents and incomings and is responsible for all outgoings up to date of sale and purchase, the purchaser being entitled to and responsible for them thereafter, and the same shall be collected and if necessary apportioned by the Company accordingly. Kafir rents shall be considered due as on the first day of June in each year.

6. This agreement and the sale and purchase hereunder shall be subject to any existing Leases, Servitudes or burdens of any description on the said property.

7. No bush or timber on the said property shall be cut, pending payment of the full purchase price of the said property without the consent of the Company in writing being first had and obtained, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.

8. In the event of the Company as a consequence of its being the registered owner being or being called upon to pay any description of tax levied on or in respect of the said property, any amount so paid or for which the Company shall be called upon to pay shall forthwith be paid by the said purchaser to the said Company, failing which the Company reserve the right to increase the purchase of the property by a sum equal to the whole amount paid by the Company or for which it may be called upon to pay, any legislative enactment in force to the contrary notwithstanding.

9. The purchaser shall as from the date of sale and purchase be liable as between himself and the Company to pay the entire cost of erecting or maintaining any fences which now are or hereafter may be erected on or between the said property and any other land, any legislative enactment in force or to be passed to the contrary notwithstanding.

10. The Company reserves to itself the right at any time hereafter and without compensation to enter upon the land sold and cause to be laid off across or along the same a road not less than twenty feet in width in such direction as the Company deems expedient having regard to cultivable land and buildings and such road shall be laid off on the diagram and duly registered as a servitude.

11. The purchaser shall if and when required by the Company at any time and may at any time after he has paid per cent of the purchase money, take transfer of the said property and pass a first Mortgage Bond securing to the Company payment of any purchase money and interest thereon for the time being unpaid.

12. The date of sale and purchase shall for all purposes of this Agreement be the day in which the first instalment of the purchase money is paid and accepted by the Company and this Agreement is signed by the purchaser ~~whichever shall last happen~~.

13. All necessary documents shall be drawn up by the Company's Solicitors but at the expense of the purchaser and payment therefor shall be made forthwith by the purchaser through the Company.

14. In the event of any of the payments hereinbefore mentioned not being duly made within thirty days of their respective due dates of payment or in the event of the purchaser failing to perform any of the terms, conditions and stipulations hereof, the Company shall be entitled to cancel the said sale, whereupon all payments made by the purchaser shall be taken by the Company as and for liquidated damages in respect of such breach.

Durban the day of

G. G. NATAL LAND AND COLONIZATION CO., LTD.

Witness to signature of the Company

.....

.....

.....the.....day of.....19.....

Witness to Signature of purchaser:—

.....

.....

Purchaser.

I hereby certify the foregoing agreement was interpreted to the above purchaser in my presence.

.....J.P.

(12).

The said Lessee shall, upon the execution hereof, insure, and during the continuance hereof, keep insured in ~~an~~ ^{nominated} office to be ~~by~~ ^{by} the Lessor against loss or damage by fire, all buildings, erections, gates and fences upon the property hereby leased, and shall also insure and keep insured the rent payable hereunder; and shall cede the policy or policies to the Lessor, and shall duly and punctually pay all premiums of insurance falling due in respect thereof from time to time, and hand the receipts therefor to the said Lessor.

(13).

The Lessor leases according to the title held, both as regards extent and otherwise, and no rebate in rent will be allowed on account of railroads, roads, water-furrows, easements or otherwise now existing or hereafter legally made on and through the leased property.

(14).

In case the said Lessee fail to comply with the conditions contained in the clauses herein numbered 5, 6, 9 and 12 the said Lessor may perform such conditions without further notice to the Lessee and recover all costs of such performance by action.

In the event of the said Lessee committing any breach of the terms and conditions hereof, or in the event of his being in default in the payment of any rent for a period of fourteen days after the due date thereof, and being still in default after receiving a notice in writing from the said Lessor informing him thereof, or in the event of the said Lessee committing an act of insolvency; or making or attempting to make a composition with his creditors, or if his goods or livestock or movables be attached in execution, and such execution shall not be immediately satisfied; or if the estate of the said Lessee shall be sequestrated or assigned under the Insolvency Laws, it shall be lawful for the said Lessor to enter into and upon the said demised premises or any part thereof in the name of the whole, and the same to again re-possess and enjoy as in its former estate and to declare this demise null and void without prejudice, however, to any right of action which shall have accrued or shall accrue to the said Lessor against the said Lessee, which shall remain in the same force and effect as if this lease had not been cancelled.

(15).

Any notices hereunder to the Lessee shall be considered as duly served when delivered personally, or when despatched through the post addressed to him at the property hereby leased, or at any address the Lessee may nominate in writing.

(16).

The said Lessee paying the rent hereby reserved and performing and observing the terms, conditions and stipulations herein contained, shall and may quietly possess and enjoy the premises during the said term without interruption from or by the said Lessor or any person rightfully claiming from or under the said Lessor.

Clauses 17, 18, 19 and 20 attached.

Executed at Durban this

24th

day of *June* 1921.

of NATAL LAND & COLONIZATION CO., LTD

Witness

J. C. Marais

Levin Dyer

A. J. ...

Executed at

Longaat this

14th

day of *June* 1921.

Witness

M. A. ...

*M. J. ...
Commt. of Cath.
Tongaat*

REFERENCES.

1. MAASDORP, G.G., NATAL INDIAN COMMUNITY, A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY IN THE TONGAAT VERULAM AREA, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF NATAL, 1968.
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