

AN INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY STUDY ON COLOMBO FORT, MARADANA RAILWAY STATIONS AND DEMATAGODA RUNNING SHED

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Archeology is a subject with a multidisciplinary approach. Industrial archeology can be identified as an innovative approach that has recently emerged. One of the main areas where this subject is intertwined with Sri Lanka is railway transport. Even though research has been done on the historical development of railway transportation since it was introduced to Sri Lanka, there are no industrial archeological studies of railway stations and running sheds. The research problem of this study is to identify industrial archeological features that are currently in use or not without changing the basic form at these sites. The objective of this research is to study the industrial archeological features identified in selected places, the history of Colombo Fort and Maradana Railway Stations, as well as the architectural features, and present the facts in an investigative and explanatory way. Research methods in the field of archeology were used for this research, while primary sources, secondary sources, and field study data were used. The data obtained were presented through descriptive methods, photographs, and sketches. After the analysis of the data, it was possible to identify that many of the early industrial archeological heritages are still in use, and those that have been abandoned are in an unsafe condition. A Victorian-based local architectural pattern can be identified in both railway stations, where the main windows, which are built using bricks, are a major characteristic. Specially, Fort railway station has been built by following the structure of the Manchester Victorian railway stations of Great Britain. A number of civil and mechanical industrial archeological features could be identified at the study sites during this research. The conclusion of this research is that the railway department should initiate an urgent program to protect the industrial archeological heritage that has fallen out of use due to modernization.

Keywords: Industrial archeology, Railway transport, Industrial revolution, Running shed, Archeological heritage

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