CHAPTER II

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Tiruvaludisvarar Temple was built during the period of Sangam Pandyas. The ground plans of the Structure together in their measure are given and the same are illustrated in general ground plan of the temple. Like other big temples of South India this temple was built at various time. The temple inscriptions furnished evidence for determining the age of the temples.

Perunkulam temple is a vast and impressive complex of structures enclosed by high and massive compound walls all around occupying a rectangular plot of land. The temple measures (330) three hundred and thirty feet East to West and (230) two hundred and thirty feet South to North roughly occupying an area of two acres and eight cents.

The main entrance face the eastern direction. The temple epigraphs mention the date of construction and the person responsible for the same. The earliest inscription belongs to the period of Srimara Srivallaba Maran Sadayan (835-862) AD found on the Southern side of Artha Mandapam States that a grant of sheep for a perpetual lamp to the Tiruvaludisvarar
Temple by a resident of Elur, Aayan Vasanthi and Aayan Senthil both Vetikudis were undertook to supply the Ghee for burning the lamp.¹

This temple is believed to be constructed before the reign of Vachira Dega Pandya of Korkai in the year 143AD (kali 3244)² The second half of second century Thirukkural immortal work of Thiruvalluvar was published in the presence of the last sangam pandya ruler Kanaperiyal Kadanitha Ukiraperuvaluthi and (48) forty eight poets in Tiruvaludisvarar Temple.³

Not only the temple epigraphs of this age but also some literary works reconstruct the history of this temple. Varakavi’s Thala Varalaru of 19th century literary work, which refers Perunkulam and its temple. This temple is also referred in the Thambriaprani – Sthalapurananam and Thambriaparani Mahatmiyam.

Tiruvaludisvarar Temple was constructed by the ruler of Korkai. The presiding deity is made of Salagrama Stone and hence the gateway that is in its front has become the Principal entrance. Inside this walls

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¹ ARE., 1932-33, No.215.
² Mahalingam. W., Om Sakthi, July 2000, PP.91, 92.
enclosure series of concentric court yards noticed around the central nucleus. On which is located the main sanctum of Lord Tiruvaludisvarar. There are thus (4) four courtyards in the temple and the local saivaitis would add the main street around the temple as the fifth one. The narrow closed passage immediately around the Thalavari saiprakara. The third seveely mandapa prakaram area the fourth is Nandavana prakara. The fifth or last is known as Veli prakaram. The five prakaras are representing the five elements of nature Earth, Water, Fire, Sky and Air.

The first prakara is Karuvari Prakara a platform shape encircling sanctorum on, four sides of this prakara double walls encircle it, leaving front portion of Karuvarai in which two doors are fixed.

Karuvarai is covered with wall on North, South and West. On eastern side double half doors in the five bells fixed on each half door. The entry to it is provided with door on the wall. In Tiruvaludisvarar Temple Lord Lingam in Sanction Sanctorum or Karuvarai is facing east leveling as primary idol and presiding deity. Inside the wall encloser, in which is located the main sanctorum of Lord Tiruvaludisvarar.

In Karuvarai Lord Kailasa Nathar is in Suyambulinga pose lonely with Cobra with his headshoods using it as umbrella appears above the
head of the Lord. He is also known as Tiruvaludisvarathu Alwar⁴, The lord was also called as Tiruvaludisvarathu Udiyar and Tiruvaludisvarathu Deva⁵.

Raja Raja I, Kulothunga I, Kulasekara deva I, Jadavarman Srivallaba, Maravarman and Vikramapandyān inscriptions found on the North outer wall of central shrine.⁶

Sundrapandya inscription found on the North West and South wall of Central shrine.⁷ Kulasekara I inscriptions found on the west wall of central shrine.⁸

Urchavar in Copper metal idol stands at two and half feet height platform in a golden palanquin with Gomathi Amman. This temple is consider as representing God Mars. Lord is far away from the entry to the temple in the Sanctum Sanctorum with Indra vimana of (27) Twenty seven feet height in its top facing east in sanctum Sanctorum.

⁴ ARE, 1932-33, No.225.
⁵ ARE, 1932-33, No.217.
⁶ ARE, 1932-33 Nos. 224, 225, 234, 235, 237, 217, 218, 222, 226, 221.
⁷ ARE., 229.
⁸ ARE, 230, 231.
Tiruvaludisvarar Shrine was a small structure before 9th cAD Urchavar in Copper metal idol casting of images in bronze by the cast wax process was increasingly practiced from later pallava period. So this temple was constructed before 5th Century AD.

In the entrance of Sanctum Sanctorum there are two statues in stone called as Dwarabalagar on each side. Further they are the Security guards or gate Keeper.9 They are pleased to receive devotees and extend welcome and they report to God about the presence of devotees.10

The Southern side statue is called Sandi and North side is called Mundi. The length of Garbagraha is (22) twenty two feet and (15) fifteen feet width and height (10) ten feet and above the teras vimana situates Karuvarai prakara has (22) twenty two feet length and (3) three feet width an all side (5½) five and half feet height (4) four feet width.

In the front door of Karuvarai Arthamandapa situates. It is of (21) twenty one feet length (15) fifteen feet width and its height is of (10) ten feet Arthamandapam is covered with walls on all four sides and at the front wall the entrance door is situated. There are (6) six pillars in (2) two


10 Ibid P.225.
rows in Arthamandapa and the height of pillar is (9) nine feet (2) two feet width. The pillars have a gap of (3) three feet between each other. In this Arthamandapam devotees stand and worship Tiruvaludisvarar. Maran Sadayan inscription found on the south side of Arthamandapam.¹²

Before this, Arthamandapam, Mahamandapam is situated. There are (24) twenty four stone (pillars) in (6) six rows in Mahamandapam and a height of pillar is (10) ten feet length and (1½) one and half feet width, the pillars have a gap of (7) seven feet between each other. In the middle of north wall of Mahamandapam, Natarajar Mandapam is situated. There are four wooden pillars bearing a small mandapam known as Natarajar Mandapam. In the North east corner, the treasury room is situated.

The south west corner (2) two feet height platform touching the south wall bronze icon of (3½) three and half feet height Urchavar Tiruvaludisvarar and Gomathiambal and Somasundari and below Kept other.

Next to the Mulavar (2) two feet height and (1) one feet width stone statue of vinaygar and (¾) three by four feet height and (½) half feet width mouse statue are kept there. Next to the vinayagar statue (4)

¹² ARE., 1932-33 No.215.
four feet height *Dwarabalaka* statue is kept. On the Northern side of Arthamandapam door another Dwarabalaga statue is kept there. Next to the Dwarabalaka statue subramanya statue is kept. Before the Arthamandapam entrance two feet height (2½) two and half feet length and (1) one feet width Nandhi fixed on the (1) one feet height platform. A small altar fixed behind the Nandhi. In the middle of the south wall of Arthamandapam (5) five feet height and (5) five feet width door is fixed.

Maran Sadayan inscription found on the southside of entrance into the Arthamandapam\(^{13}\). The total length of Mahamandapam is (35) thirty five and the width is (35) thirty five feet. Raja Raja I, Jatavarman Sundrapandya, inscription found on the second pillar and third pillar of Arthamandapam\(^{14}\).

Kulothunga I inscription found on the North side entrance of Arthamandapam.\(^{15}\) Sundra chola pandya inscription found on the north wall of Arthamandapam.\(^{16}\)

\(^{13}\) ARE., 1932-33 No.216.

\(^{14}\) ARE., 1932-33 No.211, 212.

\(^{15}\) ARE., 1932-33 No.214.

\(^{16}\) ARE., 1932-33 No.213.
Next to the Mahamandapam door (8) eight feet height (4¼) four and three fourth feet width double door Mukamandapam is situated. Muhamandapam is supported by (6) six pillars. The pillars fronted by statues, such as lion flowers and valaipoopottikai are naturally appear most conspicuously. The pillars are erected with monolithic stone.

Total length of the Mukhamandapam is (35) thirty five feet and (10) ten feet width. Thus all the structures are situated on the (3) three feet height platform. Three steps are situated infront of the Mukamandapam.

SECOND PRAKARAM

Second prakaram is known as Thalavarisai Prakaram. It is another courtyard which runs around the Garbhagriha, Arthamandapam, Mahamandapam and Mukamandapam and hence known as Thalavarisaiprakaram.

YAGASALAI

The Yagasalai (or) sacrificial faces east it is located on the north eastern side. A square structure with flat roof used as sacrificial place. It is used for performing sacrifices during festive occasions Particularly in the time of biggest festival like Brahmotsava in the month of thai.
MADAPALLI

The south east corner of the temple in the Courtyard is occupied by the temple kitchen (or) Madapalli. The entrance to it faces west with a front porch rising to (2 1/2) two and half feet from the ground level and reached by a flight of (4) four steps. Several ovens are built in the mandapa for cooking purposes. Infront is a rectangular room. Which is used for dumping the fuel required for cooking. The pillar are all original.17

THIRD PRAKARAM

Third prakaram is known as Seevili Mandapam. This is encircled by a wall on all sides. In this prakaram Madapalli (Kitchen), well, store room and Suradever, Sabtha matha’s (Gowri, Maheswari, Gowmari, Viashnavi, Varaki, Indrani and Samundi) Valampuri Vinayagar (he has four hands) and Nagar statues are situated.

In the north west corner, Subramanyar, Valli and Theivani Shrine is situated. Next to the Shrine, Bull vahana, Musiha vahana, pallanquin, two chaparas, Horse Vahana and Anna Vahana are kept there. Next to vahanas Saneeswarar and Vishnu Durgai shrine are situated. The north

17 E.J., Vol VIII, 182/A
east corner Kalabiravar shrine is situated. Next to the Kalabiravar shrine moon (Chandra) statue is erected. On the southern side of the door entry Athikara Nandhi and Surya statues are kept.

The Northern side of Talavarisai prakaram Chandikeswara shrine is situated near the north outer wall of Garbagraha. Kasiviswanatha shrine is situated next to the Wall in the Sivili mandapam.

Veera Pandya deva inscription found on the slap set up near the Kasiviswanatha shrine. \(^{18}\) Sadayan maran inscription found on the north wall of the temple. \(^{19}\)

Maravarman Sundrapandyan I inscriptions found on the west wall kitchen inside the temple. \(^{20}\) Veerapandyan inscriptions found on the south wall of the temple. \(^{21}\)

\(^{18}\) ARE., 1932-33 No.239.

\(^{19}\) ARE., 1932-33 Nos. 219, 220, 227, 228.

\(^{20}\) ARE., 1932-33 Nos.240, 241.

\(^{21}\) ARE., 1932-33 Nos.233, 239.
FOURTH PRAKARAM

Fourth prakaram is known as Nanthavana Prakaram. The wall encircling Nanthavana prakaram on all sides starts at the entrance of the third prakara. The eastern and western wall length of (70) seventy feet (on each side). Northern and southern wall length of (147) one hundred and forty seven feet (on each side) is in rectangular shape. On the northern side of Nanthavana prakara space of (21) twenty one feet is in between the outer great compound wall and of Nanthavana prakara, wall on the western side vacant space of (27) twenty seven feet on the southern side vacant space of (60) sixty feet is in between the Thiruvaludiswarar shrine wall and the Nanthavana prakara wall.

On the eastern side vacant space of (100) hundred feet is in between front compound wall and of Nanthavana prakara wall. In the Nanthavana prakara, Vinayakar shrine, Senthilandavar mandapam, Nanthimandapam palipedam, kodimaram, Thiruvathirai mandapam are situated.

GOMATHIAMMAN TEMPLE

Gomathiamman shrine is situated sixty feet south of Tiruvaludisvarar shrine (23) twenty three feet south of south compound wall seventy feet east of west wall and (146) one hundred and forty six
feet west of east compound wall. Karuvarai of the Amman shrine is of (13) thirteen feet length and (13) thirteen feet width Thayar statue is kept in the middle of Karuvarai. Arthamandapam is situated before the Karuvarai. It is of (15) fifteen feet length (13) thirteen feet width and its height is of (10) ten feet. There are four stone pillars in two rows in Ardhamandapam and height of a pillar is (10) ten feet length and (1½) one and half feet width.

The pillars have a gap of (6) six feet between each other. It is covered with walls on all four sides and at the front wall, the entrance door is situated. Nanthimandapam is of (9) nine feet length (16) sixteen feet width and (10) ten feet height. Mahamandapam is situated before the Nanthimandapam. It is of (9) nine feet length and (13) thirteen feet width and its height is of (10) ten feet. Mahamandapam is covered with walls on all four sides and at the front wall, the entrance door is situated. In the south west corner of the Mahamandapam the statue of Thiruvalluvar is kept there. In the middle of this mandapam sitting pose nanthi and palipidam are kept there.

Mukamandapam is situated before the Mahamandapam. It is of (24) twenty four feet length, (27) twenty seven feet width and it height is of (10) ten feet. There are (8) eight stone pillars in (2) two rows in
Mahamandapam and a height of pillar is (10) ten feet length and (1½) one and half feet width. The pillars have a gap of (6) six feet between them. In the north west corner wall edge palliyarai is situated. It is of (12) twelve feet length (16) sixteen feet width and its height is of (10) feet. In the south west corner of Mahamandapam, symbol of Sangiliputhattar is kept there. A statue of pandya king is also erected at the north east corner. Mukamandapam is covered with walls on all four sides and at the front wall the entrance door is situated.

Panthal mandapam is situated before the Mukamandapam. It is of (42) forty two feet length (26) twenty six feet width and its height is of (10) ten feet. There are twelve pillars in two rows in panthal mandapam and a height of pillar is (10) ten feet length and (1½) one and half feet width. It is covered with walls on three sides and at the front side is opened.

Sandikeswari shrine is situated near the north outer wall of karuvarai.

THEPPAKULAM

Theppakulam is situated (40) forty feet infront of the Gomathiamman shrine, (21) twenty one feet west of east compound wall
and (23) twenty three feet north of south compound wall. The term Teppam means float, a wooden blank on which urchavar is placed and this raft goes around inside the tank, full of water. It is known as Terrkkulam.²² (Car tank) Tirrukkulam (Holy tank)²³ Tirttakulam (Ablution tank)²⁴ Puskarni (Water reservoir)²⁵ Konard (Sevare tank)²⁶ and Sunai (Spring)²⁷ It is (85) eighty five feet length and (70) seventy feet width of rectangular shape. Padithurai is situated in the western side of the tank. Vilakumadams are kept in the north, east and west walls.

Vinayakar shrine situated in the lefthand side of third prakara entrance. This shrine is situated on the (4) four feet height platform. It is of ten feet length ten feet width and it height of (9) nine feet. In the shrine (5) five feet height sitting pose vinayaga statue is erected. In 1973 this shrine is constructed by Thiru. P.N.Nataraja Pillai of Perunkulam in memory of his wife Thayammal alias Nellai vadivu.

²² T.A.S., part III Nos. 132 and 134.
²³ Descriptive catalogue of Tamil M-S-S. Library Madras No. 2729, P.2578.
²⁴ Thirumalai Thirupathi Devasthanam, Epigraphical series, No.201.
²⁵ South Indian inscriptions Vol.I No.43.
²⁶ AER, 1915. No.73.
²⁷ I.P.S. No.12.
Murugan shrine situated in the righthand side entrance of third prakara. The temple is situated on the (4) four feet height platform. It is of ten feet length ten feet width and it height of (9) nine feet. In the shrine (5) five feet height standing pose Murugan statute is erected, (2½) two and half feet statue of goddesses Valli, Theivanai and Peacock statue are situated. This shrine is constructed by M.R.M. Raman Pillai M.R.M. Arunachalam Pillai of Sivakarai in memory of their father M.R.Manichavasgam pillai on 01.07.1974.

Nanthi Mandapam is situated infront of third prakara entrance. This mandapam is kept on the (2) two feet height stone platform. It is of (9) nine feet length (9) nine feet width and its height is of (11) eleven feet. (6) six feet length (4½) four and half feet height and (3) three feet width sitting pose Nanthi is kept in this mandapam.

Palipida is erected (12) twelve feet infront of Nanthi Mandapa. It is of (3½) three and half feet length (3½) three and half feet width and its height of (4) four feet. Kodimaram is situated (11) eleven feet infront of Palipeda. Kodimara is erected on the platform. It is (4½) four and half feet length (4½) four and half feet width and (4) four feet height. (40) fourty feet height kodimara is erected on the above said mandapa. As per the information received from the inscription found on the east wall of
kodimara platform. This kodimara is erected on 08.02.1909. The damaged Thiruvathirai mandapam is situated in the north east corner of compound wall.

PANDAL MANDAPAM

Pandal mandapam is before the (150) one hundred and fifty feet infront of Third prakara entrance and (57) fifty seven feet south of north wall. This mandapam is placed over (8) eight stone pillars with a length of (32) thirty two feet and width of (24) twenty four feet. On the top of the Pandal mandapam Suthai Sculptures of Vinayaga.

Tiruvaludisvarar and Gomathi Amman sitting on the back of standing Nandhi (Bull). On the southern side of them vinayaga scultpured doll is sitting on the mouse back. On the northern side of them Muruga sculptured doll is sitting on the peacock. According to the measurement Pandal mandapam is divided into three parts (7+10+7) seven + ten + seven. In the southern side of Pandal mandapam is (3) three feet height platform it is of (32) thirty two feet length (7) seven feet width and (10) ten feet height. Second part of the Pandal mandapam is of (32) thirty two feet length (10) ten feet width and (13) thirteen feet height. Third part of the Pandal mandapam is situated on the (3) three feet height platform is situated it is of (32) thirty two feet length (7) seven feet width
and (10) ten feet height. Pandal mandapam is covered with walls in three sides and eastern side is open.

The main entrance of the Tiruvaludisvarar temple is situated on the western wall touching the entrance on the all the four sides the compound wall situates with the height of (20) twenty feet and (2) two feet width.

The length of compound (Thirumathil) wall on northern and southern side is of (220) two hundred and twenty feet. The eastern and western walls length is (330) three hundred and thirty feet. On the top of the north east corner, south east corner, north west corner and south west corner of walls respectively one sivagana and two sitting pose nandhi suthai statues are kept. The western side of the main entrance a small mandapam is situated. It is of (4) four feet height (24) twenty four feet length and four feet width. This mandapam is divided into (3) three parts. Southern portion of this mandapam on the three feet height platform is situated over this platform (10) ten feet height (4) four pillars are kept. Second portion is of (4) four feet length and (10) ten feet width and (13) thirteen feet height. Third portion is situated on the (3) three feet height platform (10) ten feet height (4) four pillars kept on these platform. Pandya symbol fish engraved on the stone roof slap. Bulgeout sculptures of two pandya kings and flute playing krishna sculpture are
engraved on the stone pillars. A small newly erected Sastha shrine is situated in the righthand side of Pandal Mandapam.

TEMPLE CAR

Temple cars are used as vehicle for Gods in festivals. The month of Ani every year a grand festival is celebrated with all pomp and pleasure besides other festivals in various month. There is a mandapam known as Therarttrru Mandapam situates at Southern end of *sannathi* street and east car street. Theradi Madan Koil is underneath this mandapam.

This temple car relates to 20th Century polygonal shape its height is (21) twentyone feet stand over the plinth and not the total height of the car. Car length (15) fifteen feet height and (8) eight feet width of the wheel. The actual length is (19) nineteen feet. This chariot is used to seat the Urchavar on the festival day drawn by the people through the four car streets with the roap ties to the chariot which is pulled by the people. The car streets are in four directions infront of the Tiruvaludisvarar temple. After the close of the festival the upper portion of the chariot is removed and kept in the temple. The bottom portion including big wheels stationed at south east corner of *sannathi* street.