

Bungalow No 39 Raniganj

--P.K.Mishra DRM/Asansol

The iconic Bungalow No 39 at Raniganj, official residence of Engineer in-charge for laying Railway tracks between Raneegaunge & Burdwan section, was constructed during 1853. Mr. C.S. Adley, Assistant Engineer was probably the first occupant of the Bungalow.

In the year 1861, Mr, W.Bourne was posted as District Engineer at Raneegunge & Burrakur extension and he stayed in that Bungalow.

The Bungalow is located at Kalka end of Raniganj Railway station near Municipality Building and it is made in old colonial architecture of slanted tiled roof, thick walls plastered with lime & brick mortar and granolithic flooring.

Total land area of the Bunglow is 2782.66 SqM and its plinth area is 357.20 SqM. It consists of six rooms, three verandahs and one bathroom. The bungalow is surrounded with a large garden adorned with a big Banyan and other shady tress

Subsequently the bungalow was converted into the official residence of Station Master Raniganj. The bungalow was lying vacant since last three years and was in decrepit condition and whole campus was covered with wild vegetation and city refuse.

It is interesting to note that historical significance of the bungalow was lost and only after serious attempts were made to trace the residence of District engineer ,the present whereabouts of the bungalow could be discovered. The bungalow has been restituted and declared as heritage building. Renovation was done by Engineering department of Asansol Division with meager cost of 1.5 lakhs. Rare heritage furniture of the era after restoration has been kept inside the heritage building. Walls are adorned with heritage photographs.

The building is planned to be used as supervisor's rest house and scout's den.

Charles Coles Adley, the first Railway engineer of Raneegunge

Charles Coles Adley, second son of the Rev. W. Adley, was born on the 10th of September, 1828.

After acting for eighteen months as an Assistant Engineer on the Burdwan division, and for a year as Resident Engineer on the construction of the Raniganj division, he was appointed Superintendent of the Telegraph Department of the line.

In 1858 Mr. Adley, in addition to his ordinary duties, founded the Engineers' Journal and Railway and Public Works Chronicle of India and the Colonies, published at Calcutta, of which he was the proprietor and editor.

After the death of his wife, however, Mr. Adley entered in 1868 the service of the Public Works Department of the Government of India. His first duty was the design of the Small Arms Factory at Dum-Dum, in the province of Bengal, and he was highly commended by the Government for the completeness and rapidity of execution of that work.

He was then engaged in designing drainage and irrigation works for the improvement of the famine and fever-stricken districts near the banks of the Hooghly. This duty he carried out with such energy that his health suffered materially, and he found himself compelled to resign the service.

Mr. Adley then devoted his attention chiefly to mining engineering, and became connected with the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company and other similar undertakings in India. In consequence, however, of ill-health - he suffered from chronic asthma, the origin of which he attributed to employment in the marshy districts of Bengal - he retired from active work and returned to England in 1873.