

## **A DOCUMENTATION OF OYO COLONIAL PERIOD FROM THE LENS OF ARCHITECTURE: THE CASE OF APITIPITI AREA OF OYO TOWN**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Yoruba warfare ended only with the peace treaty in 1886 by the British, who used the opportunity to gain a foothold in Yoruba land. This intervention resulted in the consolidation of both Northern and Southern protectorate, which initiated colonial rule in the region in 1893. The town of New Oyo was one of the last Yoruba States to become part of the Protectorate of Lagos in 1884. With the expansion of the British on the Nigerian landscape, came the introduction of new building types referred to as 'colonial buildings' due to the architectural style of that era. These building were symbols of power and included government offices, schools, court buildings, residential quarters, and plantations. Utilizing archival research method, the paper intends to understudy the colonial presence at Oyo town through the colonial buildings constructed in the period. It will look at the choice of site at Apitipiti GRA area of Oyo, the site location in relation to the Alaafin's palace, the colonial buildings layout, the architectural style in the context of climate, the integration of indigenous building materials during the period, and the introduction of new building materials from Europe. This paper will also look at how the buildings have been utilized since colonial period to present. Lastly, it will provide an illumination on the values attached to historical buildings and the need to provide a link between the past and the present to develop new, appropriate designs.*

**KEYWORDS:** Colonial, Colonial Architecture, Indigenous material, Oyo town, Alaafin of Oyo

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Europeans had been trading on the coast since the fifteenth century, their role changed to that of 'proselytisers from the nineteenth century' (R. S. Smith, 1988: 4). Anterior to 1800, the Alaafin was the head of the Yoruba people as far as River Niger including the territory of Ilorin. By 1813 Oyo started to decline from its greatness due to civil war that ensued by the rebellion of the Alaafin's army at Ilorin. The Civil war saw to the destruction of other towns that further led to the war in Yoruba land (Annual Report, 1922).

1850 marked the beginning of economic and political transformation in what was to become Nigeria. The northern region according to Falola and Heaton (2008) was being reconfigured into an Islamic empire under the Sokoto Caliphate. The Yorubaland struggled with the fall of Old Oyo Empire whilst the Niger Delta and Calabar established slave traders reinvented the commercial wheel and diverted their focus on oil palm. The British agents took the advantage of the unsettled transformation to propagate their goal of colonialism by driving hard the ideology

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of Christian Missionaries. Their trading interest at this time also increased as well as their political officials who strove to increase the British influence against the will and wish of the indigenous rulers and other interested powers such as France and Germany. The struggle for supremacy and power over the indigenes was utmost at the heart of the British agents. As time went by the activities of the British were tuned towards colonial occupation of the territories that would become Nigeria.

### **Colonial Rule in Nigeria**

Colonial rule in Africa led to an influx of Westerners to Nigeria and eventually, the presence of these Westerners led to events that directly or indirectly affected how the country progressed politically and economically. Though the British Colonial rule was to be beneficial to both the British and the people of Nigeria, it could be said to favor one than the other. The 'Dual Mandate' as it is dubbed was beneficial to British and it saw to the extraction of raw materials from Nigeria to United Kingdom (Akintoye, 2010). Although it is claimed that the colonial rule will open Nigeria to the European society and markets, I argue that it made accessible the nation's resources to a free for all race of syphoning possession. Colonial rule however was founded on the ideology of civilization and bringing progress to otherwise backward African societies by developing their economy, eradicating slave trade, corruption, education and promoting work ethics (Akintoye, 2010). On the contrary, Mirzoeff (2002/1998): 282 argued that colonialism was centered on three C's 'commerce, Christianity and civilization'. The role of the colonial powers, because of their mission to 'civilise' the 'other', had consequences that still resonate in the post-colonial era (Sogbesan, 2015). One of these consequences is 'visual colonialism' (Mirzoeff, 2002/1998: 282) that involves the production of maps, photographs and paintings and by extension, the way the environment is perceived visually with built structures. This indeed includes collections of architectural structures and landscapes throughout the country. Such architectural style without fail, attests to the era through the adaptation and use of indigenous material and improved construction expertise to archive structures that highlighted European taste.

Because of the expansion of Britain in the landscape of Nigerian architecture new types of buildings were introduced. These were usually either imported 18th century houses of the English countryside or prefabricated constructions with deep verandas and overhanging eaves. These were sometimes raised on stilts (Adeyemi 1975-1976), and they usually had a continuous horizontal band of windows.

Colonial rule saw to the establishment of various departments that included medical departments, police service, Public Works Department that saw to the maintenance of public buildings and roads as well as the extension of electric lighting, telegraphs piers and public transport (Falola & Heaton, 2010). However, the idea of education was extended through the missionaries in bringing about civilization routed through the teaching and conversion to Christianity.

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Colonial administration in Lagos, which encompasses the Yoruba-dominated states of the mainland, was different from that of the Northern and Southern protectorate. Also the treaties of protection signed with individual Yoruba leaders mitigated the power of the British Colonial government to some extent. As a result there was some kind of independence experienced by the various ruling authorities within Yorubalands such as Alaafin. The Alaafin in the colonial era Oba S. O Ladugbolu, C.M.G. was a paramount chief who occupied the position of President of the Native Authority Council with great dignity and wisdom (Annual Report, 1944). The Alaafin's position before the colonial was based on the ideology of 'the ruler's wish was law' – an autocratic system which would have contributed to the difficulty experienced by the British Administration in conquering Oyo. However the term 'independence' is shrouded within the framework of colonialism that was not made clear to the rulers so as not to jeopardize the stability experienced within the region (Akintoye, 2010).

The idea of civilization is based on Western accounts and definitions and not considered within African contexts and standards. Africa in such a paradigm is positioned in a place where there is 'no culture, no civilization, and no long historical past' (Fanon, 2008(1952): 21). Consequently, considering civilization from an African context might lead to a better understanding of the objects and the people who made them. But paying attention to African ideas of civilization would clearly contravene or jeopardize the authority of colonial powers.

### **Colonial Rule in Oyo**

The Europeans have long been in contact with Yoruba people since the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century (Akintoye, 2010). Their relationship and interaction at this period was founded upon trade that started first along the coast as a result of slave trade. By nineteenth century the interest in legitimate trade at the end of the slave trade brought European explorers into Yoruba hinterland. One of such explorers was Clapperton whose expedition was from Badagry to Oyo Ile, and Oyo to the north through Bariba, Nupe and onward to Hausa land through the Niger between 1825- 1826 (Clapperton, 1826). Another expedition followed four years later by Richard Lander and his brother John through same earlier route through Yoruba land. These expeditions opened Yoruba land to more interest from Europe and America. The earlier explorers were opportune to meet with both the Alaafin and other rulers subordinate to him. The Alaafin as earlier mentioned at the time was the ruler of the greatest state in the West African forest. Oyo Empire brought about the wars in Yoruba-land as every sector sought for power and dominance.

The Province of Oyo as constituted during the Colonial rule was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1914 and comprises an area of 14,876 square miles. Oyo province comprised of about four other Yoruba group ruled by their own monarch. Oyo under Alaafin of Oyo, Ilesha under Its Owa; Ife under Ooni, Illa under the Orangan. Oyo Province was bounded on the North by the Northern Provinces of Ilorin and Kontagora on the East, by the Provinces of Ondo and Ijebu Ode on the South and Ijebu Ode and Abeokuta and on the West by French Dahomey. Oyo under the colonial rule was divided into 3 divisions (Oyo, Ibadan and Ife) subdivided into districts under a district

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officer responsible to the Senior Resident whose headquarter was at Oyo (Annual Report, 1929; Government Reservation Area, 1939). Oyo division corresponds to an Emirate in the Northern Provinces and directly administered by the Alaafin of Oyo who remained a paramount chief of Yorubaland even in the colonial era. Alaafin S.O Ladugbolu was a ruler who exercised autocratic powers with fairness and restraint and heedful to modern technology (Annual report, 1944). Alaafin enjoyed great friendship and partnership with the colonials especially Capt. Ross who was the Resident for many years during his rule. The relationship would have contributed to the smooth running of the Oyo province at the time and in effect influenced the rate of growth enjoyed by the province under colonial rule. Alaafin was the most powerful ruler of the Southern Provinces and it was recorded that he had no difficulty in changing his position from sole Native Authority to that of Native Authority in Council. However, he distrusted the establishment of subordinate Native Authorities and Sub-Treasury Area in the division (Annual Report, 1944). To this development, the Alaafin finally gave his consent and the Sub-Treasury and Subordinate Native Authority was formed. Until his demise in 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1944, he was considered an historic figure for Oyo and Nigeria. Alaafin S. O. Ladugbolu was succeeded by Alaafin Adeniran Adeyemi II the grandson of Alaafin Atiba.

### **Colonial Influence**

The Colonial presence in the Province of Oyo brought about various changes in terms of construction, improved trade, improved sanitization to mention a few. The Oyo people were considered ‘primitive but progressively inclined’ people (Annual Report, 1929) and justified the need to be civilized. Although Colonial influence was felt in all areas of life in Oyo, this paper focuses on the construction style adopted. The colonials constructed institutional buildings that included schools, hospitals, post office, dispensaries, police station, offices, and town hall. Residential buildings were also constructed and demonstrated both status and style in their structure and choice of material. The architectural styles of the colonising powers had been modified to survive local dynamics such as climatic conditions, building materials, construction know-how and architectural models (Devlin, 2008). The first school constructed for the natives was in 1928 where *pise* (rammed earth), corrugated iron roof and tile roof were the materials utilized (Annual Report, 1929). Construction using *pise* (rammed earth) was considered far cheaper than concrete when native administrative buildings were proposed. For example the building using *pise* cost £800 as opposed to £2200 when built using concrete (Annual Report, 1929).

Despite colonial influence in various aspects, the paper focuses on the government reservation area of Apitipiti to highlight the building technology the architectural style in the context of climate, the integration of indigenous building materials during the period, and the introduction of new building materials from Europe.

### **Colonial settlement in Apitipiti Area of Oyo**

The site chosen as Government Residential Area as well as the government hill in Oyo district of Oyo province was Apitipiti. The parcel of land is approximately 612.3 acres in an area known to

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be European Reservation Oyo (Government Residential Area records, 1939:90). The land was required by the colonial government from the Alaafin who instructed that inspection be carried out. The inspection of the land was done by Bashorun, Aremo, Ashipa and other chiefs (Government Residential Area Records, 1939). Interestingly the colonial government proposed to lease the land at a nominal rent for 999 years. From the period it was proposed, the Health Authorities had been involved in its planning and recommended a building free zone be around the European reservation. The reason for this building free zone is likely to reduce the risk of an outbreak that will affect the Europeans from the Africans. Farming on the building free zone was encouraged as a result indigenes were required to have a permit for such activity. Thus restriction into the European area was highly enforced. Today, farming is still being carried out in the area and spread to the building zone.

The proposal for lease of land by the Colonial government through James Alexander Mackenzie (the Honorable Senior Resident Oyo Province) was approved. However, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1939 the Alaafin only agreed to lease the land for 49 years to the displeasure of the Senior Resident. The District Officer was then instructed to discuss the matter again with the Alaafin on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1939. A verbal agreement was reached on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1939 and Alaafin asked to put in writing the new contract. Sadly, Alaafin was able to change the agreed lease within two weeks to favor the Colonial government. Although records showed that the District Officer promised the return of the land to the original owners if government cease to use the land, the lease is expected to be over by year 2993.

The land was acquired from the Alaafin on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1939 with an agreement written out in 1945. The area was initially referred to as the European Reservation Oyo. The land belong to Chief J. L. Ladokun - the Bashorun and Chief Oyedemi - the Ashipa as title land given to their fathers by the Alaafin. The land was on lease at a nominal rent of £50 per annum. At the time of acquisition, farmers who were farming on the land were allowed to continue provided they obtain a temporary occupational license until government requires the land where such farms are situated. The land before Colonial interest was used as farmland and consisted of economic plants such as palm tree, kola trees, Cocoa trees, Igba trees. Also there were fuel plantation (timber) which the colonial government proposed paying compensation as assessed at the time of possession. The fuel plantations belonged to the Bashorun and his people and Ashipa and his people. Both groups were paid £30 and £20 respectively as compensation for the fuel plantations. Reasons behind the choice of the area though not known but likely related to the positioning of the land on a highland. A position from which the Colonials can view other parts of Oyo as well as a attesting to the ideology of white supremacy over their subject. Access to the area was either through Apitipiti or Awe road, thus contributed to the security measures of the area. The road network also made it easy to have easy access to the Alaafin through the recently named Oba Lamidi road.

**Colonial Architectural design features****Documentation of building prototypes and structure**

The Government Residential Area was planned to consist of European reservation, a building free zone, area for African quarters and offices. There are 28 building structures of varying prototypes (see table 1 below). The area was zoned into office and residential areas with the government hill as the highest point of the land where the reservoir is situated.

	<b>TYOLOGY</b>	<b>CONDITIO N</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>	<b>PAST USE</b>	<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>SIZES/ STRUCTURE</b>
1	More recent type of design.						
1a	Servant Quarters (Type A)	In need of minor repairs (check)	Accessible by foot but thick vegetation needs to be cleared	Abandoned	Servant /Domestic staff quarters	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet, bathrooms and kitchen on either sides
2	Residential (Type X not colonial but built in the 90's.)	Renovated as part of the Nigerian Immigration passport office for Oyo.	Accessible but within a gated compound	Renovated to be used by the Nigerian Immigration service	Residential	Not Colonial	Colonial style vent for the roof. Bungalow stucture
2a	Servant Quarters (Type A)	Renovated as part of the Nigerian Immigration passport office for Oyo.	Accessible but within a gated compound	Recently renovated to be used as Immigration office	Servant /domestic Staff quarters	Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet, bathrooms and kitchen on either sides
3	Residential Building (Type A)	Dilapidated. Part of the roof was renovated to show a more recent roofing material. Main Roof is collapsed	Covered by thick vegetation but can be accessed on foot.	Abandoned	Residential quarter	Chimney Vent Use of wooden louver vent for roof. Low pitch roof. Wide corrugated roofing sheet	Bungalow using solid block of about 6''
3a	Domestic staff quarters (Type A1)	In need of minor repairs	Accessible by foot and car. Though covered by vegetation	Abandoned	Servant /Domestic staff quarters	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet, bathrooms and kitchen on either sides
3b	Garage (Type A)	In need of a roof and minor	Accessible on foot though covered by vegetation	Abandoned	Garage	Built with solid blocks	Garage space for a car

		renovation					
4	Residential Building (type A)	In need of minor repairs. New roofing materials have been included to solve leakage	Accessible by foot and car. Though covered by vegetation	Poultry	Residential quarters	Use of wooden louver vent for roof. Low pitch roof. Wide corrugated roofing sheet. Long Terrace / Veranda	Bungalow
4a	Garage (Type A2)	In need of roof. Structure still in good condition	Accessible by foot and car. Though covered by vegetation	Abandoned	Garage	Built to have a flat roof	A garage space with a store
4b	Domestic/Servant workers (Type A)	Most likely in need of renovation	Not accessible and covered by vegetation	Abandoned	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet, bathrooms and kitchen on either sides
5	Residential (Type A)	Dilapidated	Covered by vegetation. Collapsed roof	Abandoned	Residential	Use of wooden louver vent for roof. Low pitch roof. Wide corrugated roofing sheet. Long Terrace / Veranda	Bungalow
5a	Domestic staff quarters (Type A)	In need of roof and renovation	Covered by vegetation. Collapsed roof	Abandoned	Servant /Domestic staff quarters	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet, bathrooms and kitchen on either sides
5b	Garage (Type A)	In need of roof and renovation	Covered by light vegetation. Accessible on foot	Abandoned	Garage	Built using solid block and flat roof	Space for one car
6	Residential (Type B)	Inhabited	Accessible on foot and car. In good condition	Residential	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Terrace bungalow
6b	Domestic staff quarters (check)		Accessible	Abandoned	Residential		
7	Residential (Type A)	Inhabited	Accessible on foot and car. In habitable condition	Residential	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Bungalow

7a	Servant/Domestic quarter	In need of renovation	Accessible on foot and car. In habitable condition	Residential	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings. Some distance from the main house and separate entrance from the main house	2 rooms structure flanked on both sides by toilet bath and with flat roof
8	Residential (Type X not colonial but built in the 90's.)					Not Colonial	Colonial style vent for the roof. Bungalow structure
8b	Servant/Domestic quarters (Type A)		Not accessible	Abandoned	Domestic quarters	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet bath and kitchen on either side
9	Residential (Type B)	Though still standing in good condition, in need of renovation.	Accessible on foot and car.	Abandoned	Residential	Chimney Conc. Balustrade, air vent, over hang Wooden flooring Large openings	A storey building
9a	Servant/Domestic quarters	In need of renovation	Accessible on foot and car	Abandoned	Domestic quarters	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Three rooms flanked by toilet bath and kitchen on either side
9b	Garage (Type A)	In need of restoration	Accessible on foot and car	Abandoned	Garage	Flat roof	Garage space and store
10	Residential (Type B)	In good condition but lost some of its colonial features due to renovation	Accessible on foot and car	Office complex for LCDA	Residential	Balustrade, air vent, over hang Wooden flooring Large openings Chimney	A Storey building probably a duplex
11	Residential (Type C)	In need of renovation	Not accessible but roof visible through thick vegetation	Residential	Residential	Balustrade, air vent, over hang Wooden flooring Large	A Storey building probably a duplex



						openings Chimney	
11a	Servant/Domestic Quarters (Type C)	Inhabited Slight renovation/ restoration	Accessible on foot and car	Residential	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Four rooms flanked by toilet bath and kitchen on either side
11b	Garage (Type B)	In need of a roof	Accessible on foot and car	Abandoned	Garage	Built with solid blocks	Spaces for two cars
12	Office (Type B)	Abandoned	Accessible by foot	Farm house	District Officers office and later Marriage registry.		Bungalow
12a	Garage (Type A)		Accessible by foot				
13	Residential (Type X not colonial but built in the 90's.)	Inhabited	Accessible	Residential	Residential		
13a	Servant/Domestic quarters (Type A)	Inhabited	Accessible	Abandoned	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings Pit toilet	Three rooms flanked by toilet bath and kitchen on either side
14	Residential (Type C)		Accessible	Residential	Office	Chimney Large openings with vent	Bungalow
14a	Servant/Domestic quarters (Type B)					Chimney Vents over window and door openings Pit toilet	Two rooms flanked by toilet bath and kitchen on either side
15	Residential (Type D with inbuilt garage)		Accessible	Residential	Office/ Club house (Check)	Chimney Large openings with vent Wooden door for garage	Bungalow
16	Residential (Type )		Not accessible covered by thick vegetation	Residential	?	Chimney Large openings with vent Wooden door for garage	Bungalow
17	Office Building (Type C)	Covered by vegetation and farm	Accessible	Office/ storage. Windows	Residential/ Office	Chimney Large openings with	Bungalow

				high probably for storing things away from sight		vent Wooden door for garage	
18	Office (Type B)	Clay structure indicating continuity and development to concrete bricks structure	Accessible	Office	Office	Overhanging roof	Bungalow
19	Office (Type A)	Most likely temporary site structures that became permanently used as offices	Accessible	Zonal Education office Oyo	Office	Over hanging roof	Asbestos cabin and wire mesh
20	Office (Type A)	Most likely temporary site structures that became permanently used as offices	Accessible	Office	Office		Asbestos cabin and wire mesh
21	Office (Type B)		Accessible	Treasury Cash Office	Office		Clay structure
22	Office (Type B)		Accessible	Ministry of land, housing and survey and housing			Portal Cabin with roof
23	Office (Type A)	Asbestos structures that became permanently used as offices	Accessible	Local Govt. Universal Basic Education Authority Oyo East	Divisional School Board		Asbestos cabin, wooden frame and wire mesh. The introduction of prefabricated system building in Oyo
23a	Garage C	Solid block construction of bays with dilapidated	Accessible	Abandoned			Spaces for five cars

		roof					
23b	Toilet structure	External toilets with dilapidated roof		Abandoned	External Toilet for offices		Three toilets
23c	Floor Slab	Floor slab	Accessible	Used by farmers to dry their farm produce			Open with steel sheath and screw
23e	Toilet structure	Dilapidated toilet structure		Abandoned	External Toilet for offices		Three toilet
24	Office (Type A)	Asbestos structures that became permanently used as offices	Accessible	Local Govt. Universal Basic Education Authority Oyo East	Office		Asbestos cabin, wooden frame and wire mesh
25	Office (Type A)	Asbestos structures that became permanently used as offices	Accessible	Ministry of Agriculture	Office		Asbestos cabin, wooden frame and wire mesh
26	Office (Type F)	Accessible one storey building	Accessible	Licensing Office/ Tax Office		Concrete vents, large openings, steel balustrade	Storey building with office spaces, wooden panel
27	Clinic (Vet)	Accessible	Accessible but in need of slight renovation work	Vet clinic	Vet clinic	Large openings for ventilation	Offices and clinic spaces
28	Office	Office building and laboratory structure	Accessible within the vet clinic but doors are locked	Abandoned but in pristine condition	Tanning Quality test center		Large openings, vents with wooden shutters
28a	Kitchen	Purpose built Kitchen/ Oven	Accessible through Light to thick vegetation	Abandoned			In built oven, chimney, flat concrete roof
29	Residential (Type E)	Inhabited	Accessible on foot and car. In good condition	Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation	Residential	Chimney Vents over window and door openings	Semi-detached 2 bedroom bungalow

**Table 1:** Colonial Building typology and features. (source: author)

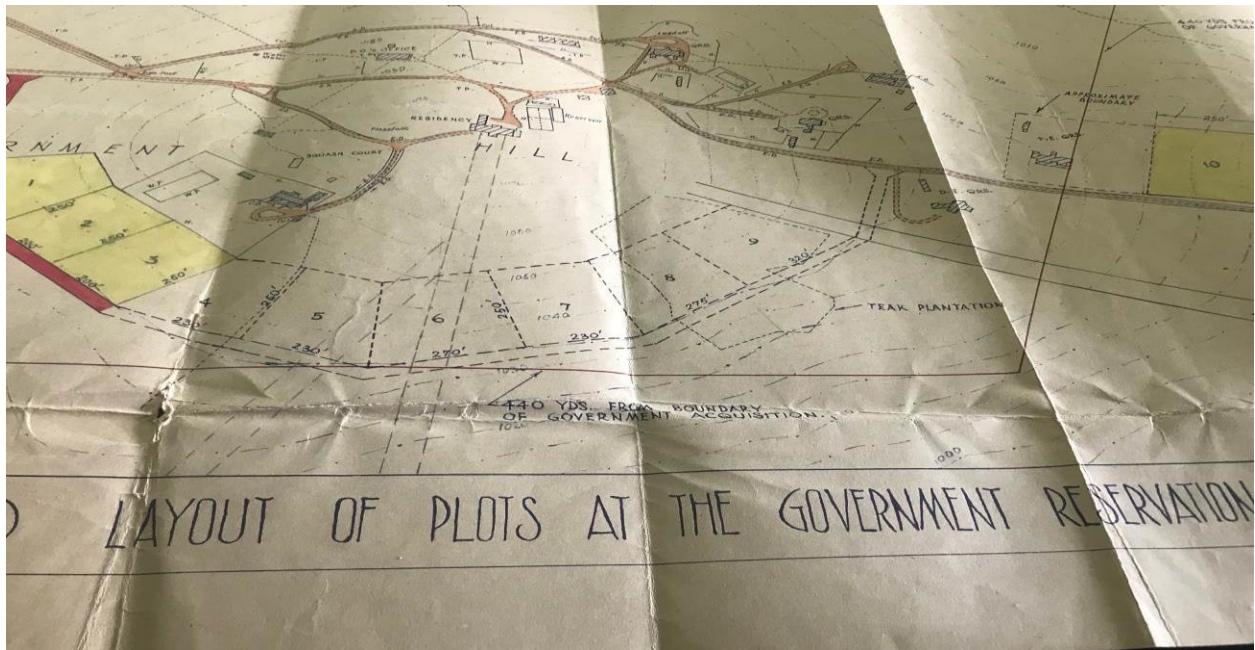


Fig 1: Showing site layout of plots on the Government Reservation drawn in 1937.

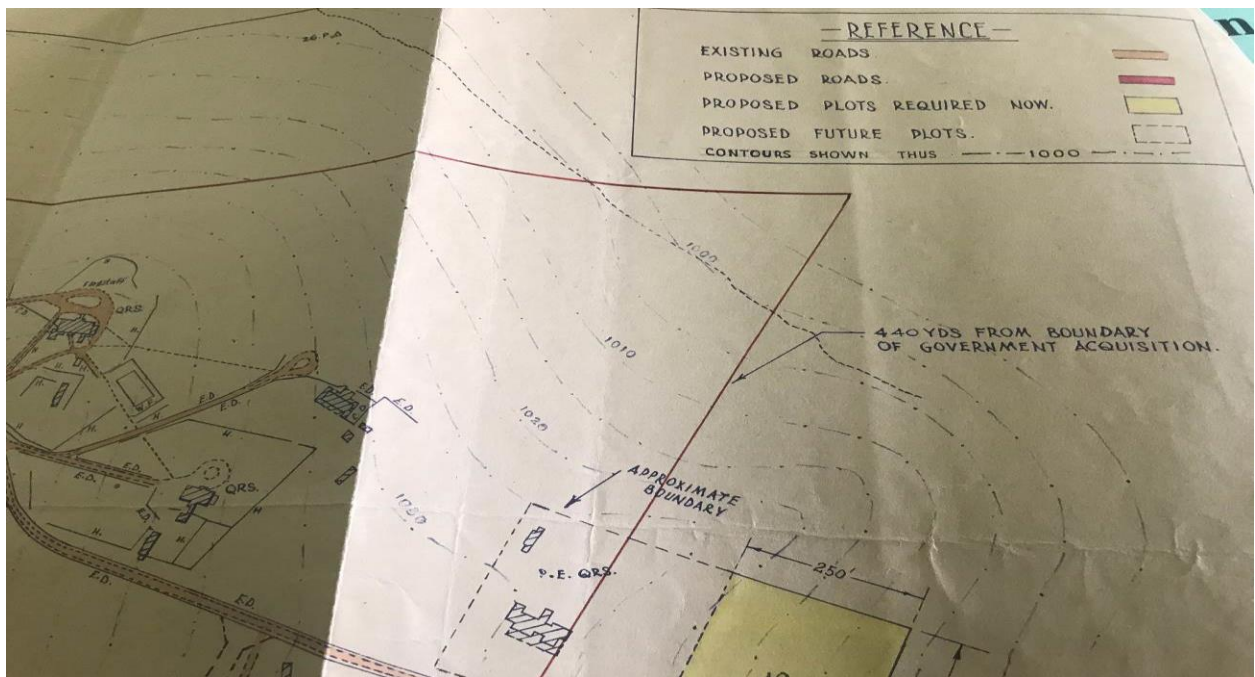


Fig 2: Showing Legend of the Layout Plan of Government Reservation Area 1937.

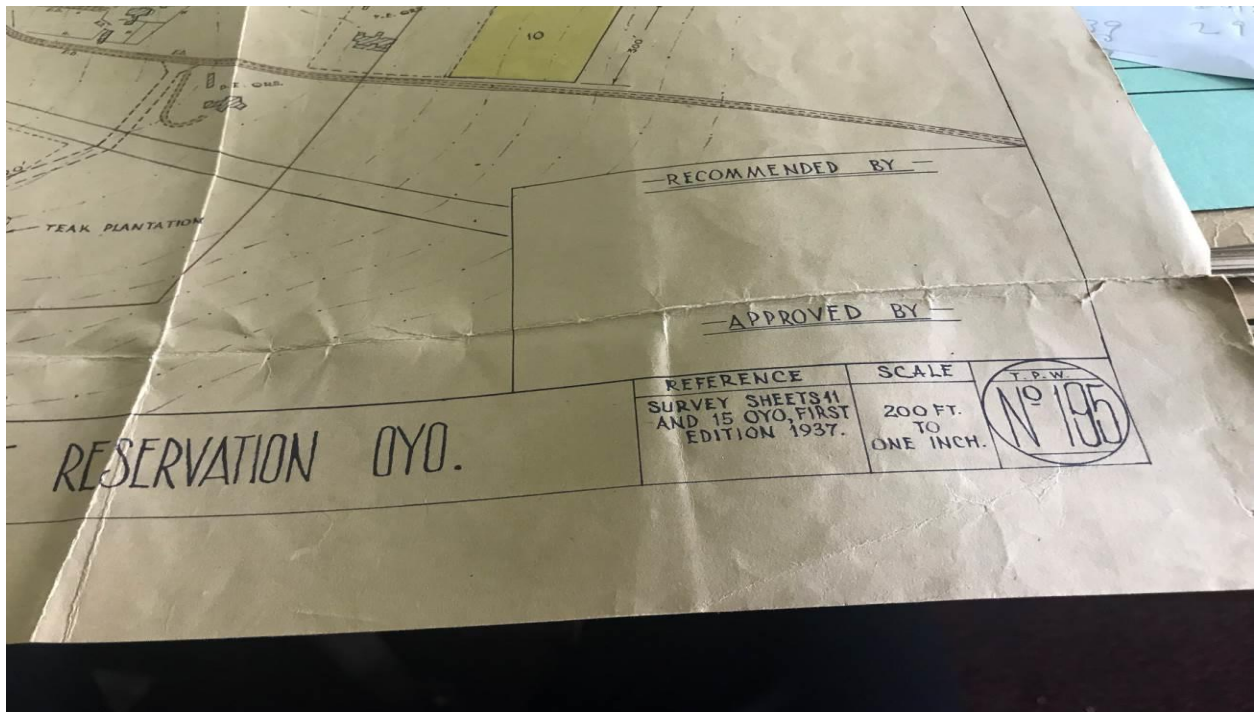
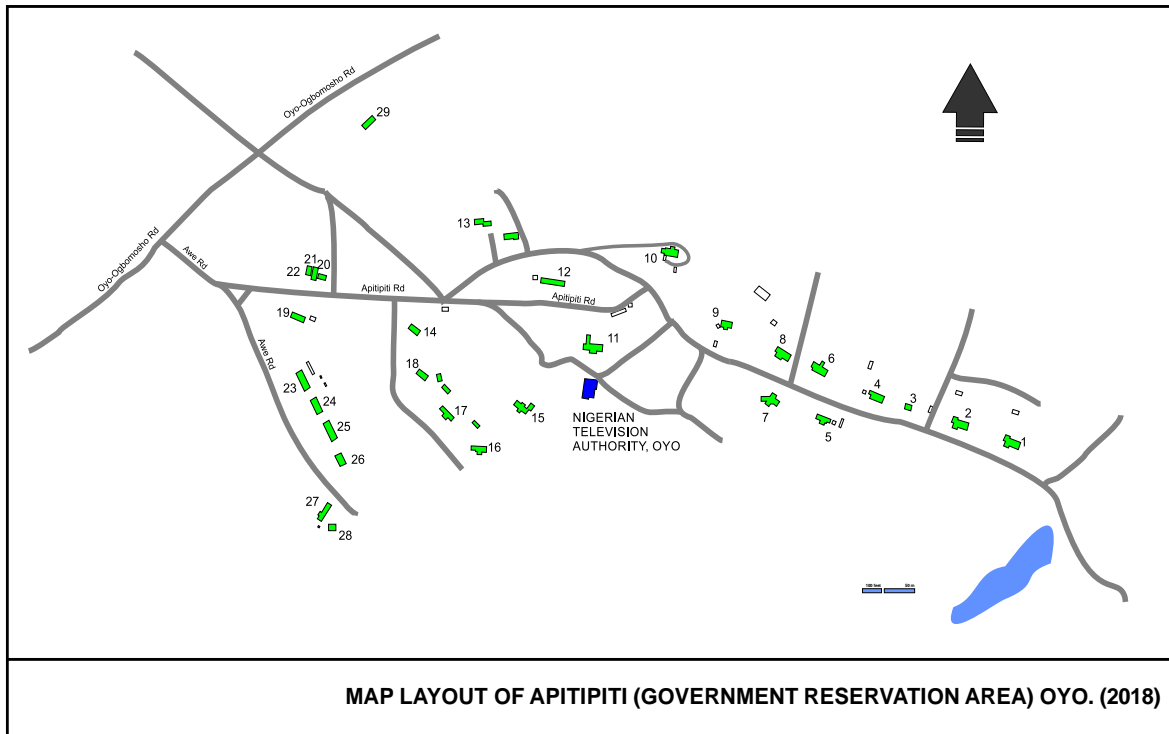


Fig 3: Showing date of the first edition layout plan of the Government Reservation.



**Fig 4:** Revised layout showing proposed plot for seven senior service plots, nineteen junior service plots and reservation of land for the provincial offices and District Offices at the Government Reservation Oyo.



**Fig 5:** Present layout showing the built up area of the Government Reservation Area. (source: author)

Summary of findings on Table 1 indicated 3 numbers of storey building were constructed and used by the district Officer, assistant district officer and the Senior Resident. From the layout plan (Fig 1) of the land was officially acquired in 1941 these buildings were constructed before the plan was produced. This is evident in the accuracy of the shapes of the existing structures on the site layout of the newly acquired land. Out of the proposed seven senior quarters, on site are four buildings with domestic quarters and garages within walking distance from the main house. Three buildings of another typology is located on the area marked for senior staff. Out of the proposed seventeen junior staff quarters, there is presently one semi detached two bedroom constructed within the allocated area. Also constructed are 3 typologies for the domestic staff quarter design. It consisted of 8 three single rooms flanked on each side by toilet, bathroom and kitchen; 2 two single rooms flanked by the convenience and kitchen on each side and 1 four single room flanked by convenience and kitchen on either side. Offices were also constructed using asbestos as wall.



**Fig 5:** Showing one of the storey building used by the District Officer during the Colonial era. (Photo by author)



**Fig 6:** Showing a 2-room type of domestic staff quarter. (Photo by author)



**Fig 7:** Showing a semi detached 2 bedroom junior staff quarter. (Photo by author)





**Fig 8:** Showing Type A Senior Staff Quarter. (Photo by author)



**Fig 9:** Showing Type B Senior Staff Quarter. (Photo by author)



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Fig 10: Showing Office constructed using Asbestos. (Photo by author)

The British undoubtedly left an unforgettable architectural influence all over Nigeria including Oyo through colonization. From the Resident's house to the smallest offices, they built structures that although western in nature, incorporated features that considered the climatic condition of the tropics. Features such as air vents over windows and doors, air vents in roofs, wide roof overhangs, kitchen chimneys, large windows, sun screen louvres, extensive terraces and solid wall construction using local materials such as earth (*pise*). All these help keep the building cool at all times. The British re-created their country villages in Nigeria. Large green areas as seen in the G.R.A. were used for agriculture and also to reduce heat by providing shade trees to the buildings. Chukwuali (2004) noted that "emphasis was placed on coolness, and rooms were large with big windows. Verandahs and devices for sun protection featured prominently."

The buildings over time have been put to different uses from what they were constructed. For example, the story building used by the District Officer has been converted to Local Community Development Authority (LCDA). Some renovation and partitioning have been done with plywood to make out office spaces for various personnel's. The other two are still in their original state unoccupied but left to ruin. Most of the residential quarters are used as farm sheds because they are unoccupied. One of the senior staff quarter is now used as poultry. Another is used as a community club and an annex to the LCDA office. Few of the structures are used as residents while majority are used as farm sheds by farmers who have utilized the surrounding grounds for cultivation of vegetables. By and large, a large percentage of the structures are in dire need of restoration.

## CONCLUSION

An attestation to the Colonial era in Oyo is the presence of the Government Reservation Area Apitipiti. An area now occupied by various Government ministries as permanent site of operation within Oyo Township. The structures were built to be durable, spacious and stand the test of time. Utilizing *pise* (rammed earth), concrete, corrugated iron roof, timber, and asbestos as available construction materials, they built structures that have recognizable features that are still useful today. They constructed large openings, included jalousies and chimneys where necessary to allow in air exchange and proper ventilation. The Government reservation area was built using zoning system that allowed vegetation area to surround the built up area as directed by the Ministry of Health. These structures of more than half a decade are in need of restoration that can make the area used as a tourist area if well maintained. Sadly their dilapidated state only attests to a culture of waste that permeates throughout the nation.

During this era, buildings were constructed bearing in mind land use policy, the need, the available material and the environment. Today, status/class and taste influenced from foreign nations that disregard prevailing environmental condition adorns different areas of Oyo. Since the end of colonial era, Oyo still resonates the glory of the period as colonial structures adorn its

skyline of major areas till date. It is important that we look back into the design thought process of these buildings and reintroduce it into our modern buildings. By so doing we will have structures that are comfortable and as well depict our true identity.

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