

## Wat Sri Sawai



Wat Sri Sawai was founded in the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century, but left unfinished, and it was probably in the 15<sup>th</sup> century that the laterite towers or Prang were completed in brick, their lower parts encased, and the stucco décor added. There is evidence that this Wat was originally a Brahmanical shrine. During excavations, a lintel was found showing the sleep of Vishnu (now in the museum), and in front of the Prang, bronze fragments of images of divinities and of a small Sivalinga were found. In 1907, King Vajravudh discovered an image of Siva in the Wihan, and he guessed that the monument was once a Hindu shrine; he erected a stone inscription north of the monument giving information about it. When the shrine was transformed into a Buddhist monastery is not known, but it might have been before the rebuilding occurred because bronze Buddha images of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century Lopburi style have been found here. In the monastery, the Prang serves as a Chedi. In front of the three towers are two Wihan which are joined together. There is a low enclosing wall of brick with a veneer of slate; only one side remains. Outside the low wall is a square wall of laterite.



