

Government of Madras

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1054, 3rd September 1919

University Library

Approving, in modification of previous orders, the proposal to construct the new —
buildings on the site of 'Marine Villa'.

ORIGINAL

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Government of Madras

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1054, 3rd September 1919

University Library

Approving, in modification of previous orders, the proposal to construct the new buildings on the site of 'Marine Villa',

READ—the following papers :—

1

G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on the question of the site for the location of the University Library.

G.O: No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913.

ABSTRACT.—Sanctioning the alienation of 4 cawnies and 1,076 square feet of land in Triplicane, Madras, free of charge for the occupancy right in favour of the University of Madras for constructing the University Library buildings and requesting the Board to submit proposals for the exemption of the land from payment of ground-rent after it has been handed over to the University.

III

Memorandum No. 496 B-1, Home (Education), dated 18th March 1919.

With reference to G.O. No. 410 W., dated 16th March 1917, the Syndicate, University of Madras, is requested to report whether it now proposes to take up the construction of the University Library buildings.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Registrar, University of Madras.

III

Letter—from F. DEWSBURY, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar, University of Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—Senate House, the 10th April 1919.
No.—2585.

With reference to Memorandum No. 496 B-1, Home (Education), dated 18th March 1919, requesting the Syndicate to report whether it now proposes to take up the construction of the new University buildings, I have been directed by the Syndicate to request the Government to reconsider their decision communicated in Memorandum No. 1244-2, Educational, dated 18th December 1912, that the Government are unable to make the Marine Villa compound available for the location of the University Library.

2. In my letter No. 236, dated 24th January 1912, the Government was first addressed on the question of providing new and adequate accommodation for the University Library. The Syndicate did not then contemplate taking charge of the Oriental Manuscripts Library nor the appointment of University Professors and the consequent necessity for erecting lecture rooms and offices; but a site committee which sat in June 1912 under G.O. No. 851 W., dated 8th July 1911, unanimously recommended the Marine Villa site as the best for the purpose.

3. The building scheme which has developed since that date as a result of the grants from the Government of India is much larger and more important than that on which the Government was addressed in my letter under reference. It is probable that, had the Syndicate been considering a building scheme of the kind since adopted, the representations made for the grant of the Marine Villa site to the north of the Senate House would have been put with much greater force. The objections to the site on the west of the Senate House granted by the Government for the new buildings were originally based mainly upon the undesirability of erecting a public building in a position where it would be wholly overshadowed and obscured by the mass of the Senate House adjoining. This objection has much greater weight now that the building scheme has increased to four or five times its original dimensions

and that an extensive and pretentious block of new buildings, which should be a valuable addition to the architectural features of the neighbourhood, will be hidden from view and thrown into undesirable contrast with the Senate House.

4. A further and very serious objection to the western site was revealed when arrangements were in progress in 1915 for commencing the erection of the proposed buildings. At a conference held between a committee appointed by the Syndicate and Sir Harold Stuart at Ootacamund on the 21st August of that year to consider the arrangements for the erection of the new University buildings, the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Mr. S. B. Murray, stated that he had found himself unable to pass the plans and estimates as first drawn up, as the borings taken on the site at the west of the Senate House had given unsatisfactory results and investigation had shown that a tank had previously existed where the building was to be located, which had been filled up probably with spoil during the time of the construction of the Buckingham Canal, and that he was awaiting a report from the Consulting Architect to the Government as to whether he could reduce the proposed pressure in places on the foundations from about four tons to one ton per square foot. Mr. Murray was at that time unable to give any assurance that the proposed buildings could be erected on the selected site and stated that in any case the cost of the foundations would be considerably increased, possibly by the sum of Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000. Mr. Murray pointed out that the only other site in the neighbourhood of the Senate House was that of the Marine Villa, on which also a tank had existed. He stated that it would be possible by an alteration of the plans to arrange for the building to be erected on good foundations round the position of the pre-existing tank, and that the saving in the cost of erection on the Marine Villa site would be more than sufficient to provide an entirely new residence for the Government House Medical Officer. Sir Harold Stuart promised to do what he could to obtain for the University the Marine Villa site should the other finally prove unsuitable. It is understood that the Consulting Architect to Government was able to assure the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department that it would be possible to 'float' the new building on concrete foundations on the west of the Senate House: but the Syndicate believes that this would, in any case, be undesirable and expensive.

5. Before any definite action was taken to commence building operations on the site granted to the University by the Government, the difficulty of obtaining essential materials became so evident that the whole scheme was temporarily suspended.

Now that the Government has suggested that the construction of these buildings should be taken up, the Syndicate wishes to represent the obvious desirability of a change of site. It may be justly urged that these new buildings, for which the estimate in 1916 was Rs. 7,65,000, are of a character and size sufficient to warrant their erection on the best possible site. That the Marine Villa site, which is unique in situation having a frontage on two sides to public roads and on a third side to Napier's Bridge and the Coom, is ideal for the purpose cannot be questioned, and the Syndicate now requests that the Government will be so good as to reconsider their former decision and pass favourable orders upon this representation.

Order—No. 1054, Home (Education), dated 3rd September 1919.

After a careful consideration of the representations of the Syndicate of the University of Madras, the Government are pleased, in modification of G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913, to approve the proposal to build the new University Library buildings on the site of 'Marine Villa' instead of on the site alienated for the purpose in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913.

2. Orders will issue in the Revenue Department regarding the formal alienation of the site to the University and as regards the resumption of the site alienated to the University in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913.

3. The site of 'Marine Villa' will be handed over to the University after suitable quarters have been provided elsewhere for the Government House Surgeon.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Registrar, University of Madras.
" Revenue Department
" Public Works Department } with notes.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1054, HOME (EDUCATION), DATED 3RD SEPTEMBER 1919

[SUBJECT.—Site for the construction of University Library buildings.]

Previous papers:

G.O.	59, Educational,	24th January	1913	G.O. 1465, Educational,	21st December	1914
"	445	" 14th May	"	" 1066,	" 27th September	1915
"	565-6	" 14th June	"	" 1228	" 15th November	"
"	622	" 1st July	"	" 410 W.,	" 16th March	1917
"	1340 W.,	" 4th	"	P.W. Memorandum 2610-C,	" 21st April	"
"	3476, Revenue,	" 27th November	"	" 4266-C,	" 1st July	1919

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Please see G.O. No. 410 W., dated 16th March 1917, and the notes leading thereto. Now that the hostilities have ceased, the Home (Education) Department may be requested to ascertain from the University (Syndicate) whether it proposes to take up the construction of the University Library buildings.

R.R.—6-3-19.

V.S.—7-3-19.

R. F. STONEY—8-3-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A draft memorandum to the Syndicate is submitted for approval.

G.N.—12-3-19.

T.K.—12-3-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARYAN—15-3-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—18-3-19.

[Memorandum No. 496-B-1, Home (Education), dated 18th March 1919.]

Demi-official—from A. C. DUFF, Esq., I.C.S., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Madras, the 15th April 1919.

I am to ask you kindly to send on arrival at Ootacamund the file relating to the proposed grant of 'Marine Villa' site for University buildings.

From the Registrar, University of Madras, No. 2585, dated the 10th April 1919.

The file referred to in the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor's demi-official is submitted.

2. In 1912 the Syndicate of the University of Madras applied for the grant to them of the site known as the 'Marine Villa' for the construction of the necessary buildings for the University Library. The application had to be rejected because Sir Murray Hammick and Lord Pentland objected to the proposal—vide portions sidelined on pages 3, 4, 5 and 10 of the notes to G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913. After a consideration of other possible sites an extent of two canals and 1,076 square feet to the west of the Senate House buildings was eventually alienated to the University; and the foundation stone was laid by His

Excellency the Viceroy on this site (cf. G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913). Not yet examined.

L.D.—24-4-19.

stating that the site already given to it is not altogether satisfactory and sufficient for the requirements as developed since and that the 'Marine Villa' site originally suggested might be made over to it.

E.A.V.—22-4-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—22-4-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—23-4-19.

To His Excellency, please, as requested in Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor's demi-official of 15th April 1919.

L. D[AVIDSON]—24-4-19.

I certainly am of opinion that if anyone has the 'Marine Villa' site, it should be the University.

It is too early for me to give any definite opinion on this matter, but generally speaking, I would certainly consider the handing over of the site provided the Surgeon to the Governor was suitably housed elsewhere before the final transfer was made.

W[ILLINGDON]—25-4-19.

Now take up the University letter and note thereon. Enquire also if there is any proposal to construct elsewhere a residence for the Surgeon to His Excellency.

R.R.—26-4-19.

It has been accepted on all hands that the proposed buildings for the University Library must be in close proximity to the Senate House. The sites originally thought of for the purpose were three in number:—

- (i) the site of the 'Marine Villa';
- (ii) the site to the south of the Senate House adjoining the Revenue Board's office buildings; and
- (iii) the one to the west of the Senate House containing the tiffin rooms, stables, latrines and motor garages of the Board of Revenue (Site Committee's proceedings at page 3 of G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913).

2. Of the above, No. (ii) was easily eschewed as the construction of other buildings thereon would seriously interfere with the conveniences of the Board of Revenue. As regards site No. (iii), the Site Committee on the question recorded as follows:—

"It is too low lying and suited only for such buildings as are at present on it, viz., tiffin rooms of the Board of Revenue, stables, garages and latrines."

The Board of Revenue was also not inclined to allow the University to utilize this ground for its new buildings as the greater portion of the site would be needed for the then projected excise laboratory and for new tiffin rooms. It had no objection for any space in the northern wing, after providing for these, being made over to the University. The Board accordingly strongly protested against placing any portion of the site facing its buildings at the disposal of the University before its own requirements were met (page 5 of G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913).

3. It was easily perceived that the site could not meet the aforesaid needs of the Board and at the same time provide space for University buildings. As the Government were not inclined to give up the only alternative site, the 'Marine Villa' site, the Board's interests had to give way; and the whole of the site to the west of the Senate House was ordered to be given over to the University, the Board being asked to find out other sites for its laboratory, tiffin room and garages, etc.

4. The Syndicate's representation now is that the site already selected, and on which the foundation stone has been laid by the Viceroy, is objectionable in at least two respects:—

(i) that the buildings, as now conceived, form an extensive and pretentious block in that it would include provision for new lecture halls and offices and represent a valuable addition to the architectural features of the neighbourhood and as such should appropriately be on a prominent site; and

(ii) that Mr. Murray, late Chief Engineer, had, on investigation, found the soil to be 'made up' which would not give safe foundations for the building unless at an extra cost of about Rs. 39,000. (This circumstance is reported to have influenced Sir Harold Stuart to say that he would try to secure for the University the site of the 'Marine Villa'). (Page 34 of G.O. No. 410 W., dated 16th March 1917).

5. As regards the first point, it is pointed out that the new building will now be four or five times its original dimensions and that its cost will now be about 7½ lakhs as against 3 lakhs originally contemplated. There is thus no doubt that the new building will be a very important

one and will have to be suitably located. Sir Harold Stuart thought that the site to the west of the Senate House was an equally prominent one; but Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar would seem to have thought otherwise. The latter was of the opinion that a fine building on the 'Marine Villa' site would add to the attractiveness of the Marina. Notwithstanding the fact that a new building on the western site could have a frontage on the Wallajah Road there will be no gain-saying that it will be largely overshadowed by the mass of the Senate House buildings. It may therefore be conceded that a new block of imposing buildings on the 'Marine Villa' site would be preferable.

6. The other objection seems to be more weighty. The University do not want to take the risk of putting such a costly building on foundations of doubtful stability. The Public Works Department may be asked again to advise, if the other objection is not to be allowed.

I should say insuperable.

R.R.—5-5-19.

7. Objections that were raised to the 'Marine Villa' site were:—
(i) that it was exposed to the sea breeze which might prove injurious to the books in the library;

(ii) that it is not sheltered from dust; and

(iii) that it will entail the necessity for providing a separate residence for the Governor's Surgeon.

The first point has been fully answered in Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar's note, dated 7th August 1912, on page 4 of notes with G.O. No. 622, dated the 1st July 1913. In respect of the second, it may be pointed out that the Marina road has been tarred by the Corporation and the dust nuisance in the locality is considerably minimised. The third point has been disposed of by His Excellency's note on page 2 above. The Public Works Department may be asked to state, with reference to Secretary's note, dated 26th April 1919, on page 2 above, whether they have had any proposals for building new quarters for the Surgeon.

E.A.V.—4-5-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—4-5-19.

It is clear that if the 'Marine Villa' site be not available we will have to go elsewhere perhaps far away from the Senate House. To the Public Works Department for favour of furnishing the information at B.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—5-5-19.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Proposals to construct a residence for the Surgeon to His Excellency the Governor.—In his letter No. 3792, dated 23rd May 1912, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle (vide extract on page 3 of Memorandum No. 6722 C., dated 20th July 1912), the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor stated that His Excellency agreed with Major Gilbert, Surgeon to His Excellency, in considering that the Surgeon's house at Madras was not fit to live in, and therefore wished to have a plan and estimate prepared for the construction of a new house. It is understood from the V Circle office that plans and estimate for constructing a residence in the Government House Park were prepared accordingly by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.

2. Subsequently in a demi-official, dated 27th November 1912 (vide page 1 of Memorandum No. 11747 C., dated 13th December 1912) the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor wrote that His Excellency suggested allotting 'Marine Villa' for the Body Guard officers, and wished to build a new residence for his Surgeon, accommodation being provided for married couple, nurse and child. His Excellency wanted a house designed which would be an addition to the Government House grounds, its external appearance being therefore of considerable importance. The Consulting Architect was accordingly asked to prepare a suitable design. But in December 1912, His Excellency thought that in the event of connecting the Banqueting Hall with the main house, it might be better to make it a two-storied building with the Surgeon's quarters on the top. His Excellency accordingly ordered that the question of the Surgeon's quarters must remain in abeyance.

3. Owing to the above decision, the proposals for constructing a new residence for the Surgeon were dropped, and in G.O. No. 1340 W., dated 4th July 1913, certain improvements to the 'Marine Villa' were sanctioned.

There are no other papers on the subject in this department. The file may now be returned to Home (Education).

C.J.O.—17-5-19.

J.R.—17-5-19.

S. BHASKARA AYYAR—19-5-19.

1054, Home, (Edn.)—2

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-5-19.

It is clear that the Surgeon will be provided with a residence elsewhere in the Government House Park. Owing to the necessity of the university to begin the Library buildings, orders are requested that the question of the Surgeon's residence be taken up now.

The idea of allotting 'Marine Villa' to Body Guard officers when it becomes available may be formally dropped.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—21-5-19.

There is no doubt that 'Marine Villa' is by far the most eligible site for the University Library and that it would be difficult—perhaps impossible—to provide any other suitable site in the vicinity of the Senate House.

Yes, please. I might do this when I am in Madras next month.

W[ILLINGTON]—23-5-19.

His Excellency will no doubt wish to consider on the spot the question of sites for houses for his Surgeon and the Body Guard officers.

L. D[AVIDSON]—22-5-19.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Please send back the file to me on the 7th June to be taken down to Madras for reference.

A. C. DUFF—26-5-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the file may be forwarded to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

E.A.V.—5-6-19.

C.R.—5-6-19.

R.R.—5-6-19.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Returned with thanks.

(By order)

A.C.D.—16-6-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A draft order is submitted. The site with the buildings will have to be alienated to the University by the Revenue Department after obtaining alienation statements from the Board of Revenue. The draft, if approved, may be sent to Revenue and Public Works for acceptance.

The Revenue Department will also have to consider the desirability of revoking the alienation orders in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913. A separate report on the subject from the University will have to be called for.

E.A.V.—17-6-19.

C.R.—18-6-19.

C.R.—18-6-19.

I do not see His Excellency's orders anywhere. Could you not first get them before drafting?

R.R.—19-6-19.

The draft may be submitted to His Excellency for approval. From His Excellency's note on page 2 above and Honourable Member's note supra, it was thought that there was justification for a draft to be prepared and submitted again for approval. His Excellency's note at page 2 was with reference to the selection of site for the Surgeon's quarters and the Body Guard officers' houses.

The draft will be circulated for consideration and orders.

C.R.—19-6-19.

R.R.—20-6-19.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

J.B.B.—24-6-19.
A.F.G.M.—27-6-19.

The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted subject to the substitution of the word 'regarding' for 'sanctioning' in paragraph 2 of the draft since it may be that the Government of India's sanction would be required.

2. On receipt of a copy of the Home (Education) Department's order on this file the Board may be asked to submit definite proposals for alienation with the necessary statements and to report (in consultation with the University authorities) on the question of resumption of the site alienated in 1913.

3. The file may be returned to Home (Education) with these remarks.

S.J.A.—23-6-19.

J. B. BROWN—24-6-19.

The Honourable Member (Revenue) should see.

A. F. G. MOSCARDI—27-6-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be circulated.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—1-7-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—3-7-19.

His Excellency has yet to give a final decision.

L. D[AVIDSON]—7-7-19.

The draft should provide for the site already alienated being restored.

C. G. T[ODHUNTER]—7-7-19.

I approve the 'Marine Villa' site being definitely reserved for the University. My only doubt is whether it is all wanted for University purposes. Perhaps Public Works Department would report on this matter. The frontage is a very large one and we might possibly be able to make use of it for other purposes besides.

If Public Works Department say, and other departments concerned say, it should all go to the University; I approve the draft, subject to Mr. Todhunter's suggested addition.

W[ILLINGTON]—10-7-19.

The file may be sent to the Public Works Department for remarks (i) as to whether the whole of the land with the full frontage will be needed for the purposes of the University and (ii) whether there are any other purposes for which there is need for site on this land. From the current letter it is observed that the University authorities have been in correspondence with the Chief Engineer and the Consulting Architect on the question of University Library. The former should have intimated to those officers their requirements.

C.R.—11-7-19.

R.R.—12-7-19.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Please see note by the Consulting Architect attached.

The whole of the land and frontage is required and I would respectfully submit with reference to His Excellency's inquiry that the whole of the site is required for the University Library and if other buildings were erected on the site the lay out would not be satisfactory. It will however be advisable in handing over the land to the University authorities to safeguard our interests and I would add to the Government Order the following words "but reserving such land as the Government may find it necessary for enlarging the roads which bound the site on the south and east."

W. HUTTON—19-8-19.

Consulting Architect's note.

In considering the question of putting the University Library on the 'Marine Villa' site there seem to be two chief points to bear in mind—

- (1) its relation to the Senate House,
- (2) its relation to the Marina.

Ordinarily, in putting an important building on the Marina, one would roughly lay down that it should not be placed nearer the roadway than the present Senate House.

W.H.—19-8-19.

In this case it seems to me to be of vital importance that the main axis of the new Library should be on the main axis of the existing Senate House. Please see the sketch site plan C.A. No. 181-19 which shows what I mean. This will involve the projecting wings of the Library coming nearer the Marina road way than the Senate House, but they will still be over 100 feet away and the main feature of the design, the central 60 feet dome, will be still further back on the Senate House axis. It is possible that the existing road leading past Government House to the Marina may one day become of considerably more importance than it is at present. If it were widened and planted with trees, it would make a magnificent approach to the Marina, terminating as I have pictured it on a 'University square' with grass lawns in front of the two University buildings, and possibly a statue of a famous educationist in the centre of the square.

As a matter of fact we will probably adopt a new alignment for this road, the idea being that it should be aligned straight on Government House, Madras, so that we will have a vista straight to the sea. This will be borne in mind and taken up in connexion with another case.

W.H.—19-8-19.

On my sketch I have shown the two buildings about 120 yards apart; if they are any nearer, Mr. Thomas' 60 feet dome will dwarf the Senate House, a thing to be avoided at all costs. It may even be necessary to place them further apart than this, but I don't think so.

W.H.—19-8-19.

If the above views are accepted, it will be seen that the whole of the 'Marine Villa' site will be required for the Library and that there should be no question of putting any other buildings there except subsidiary ones for the use of the Library. C.A. No. 181/19 only pretends to be an idea, not a final considered lay out.

I quite agree.

W.H.—19-8-19.

This I am taking up separately. I am of the opinion that before the exact position is fixed, the whole question of the widening of the Marina should be considered.

W.H.—19-8-19.

My sketch shows the existing road way only, but I cannot imagine any claims of the Marina being greater than that of the Senate House to have the new building on its axis. I have marked on C.A. No. 181/19 five points in red. These are the five domes and the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, may perhaps be asked to have trial pits made at these points.

We want also 30 feet borings; draft to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, will issue.

W.H.—19-8-19.

W. J. NICHOLLS—15-8-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

With reference to His Excellency's note, dated 10th July 1919 (page 5 ante), it is observed that both the Consulting Architect and the Chief Engineer are of opinion that the whole of the 'Marine' Villa site with its entire frontage will be required for University purposes. Also it is not stated that land on this site is required for other purposes. It does not seem necessary to consult other departments now that the whole site is needed for the University and the Public Works Department, who are likely to know, are not obviously aware of any.

2. Two suggestions for amendment of the draft are made. The Honourable Member (Revenue) would provide for the resumption of the site already alienated in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913. As already noted, this might involve a reference to the University. The point may however be mentioned in the draft for Revenue to take action on. Paragraph 3 in red ink is for orders.

The second suggestion is that of the Chief Engineer—to reserve to Government the right to exclude such portion of the land as might be required for enlarging the roads bounding the site on the south and west. Submitted that it seems appropriate to provide for this reservation in the order which the Revenue Department may eventually issue, formally alienating the land.

L.D.—28-8-19.

3. The draft may again go to Revenue for acceptance. On its return the case may be circulated to the Honourable Member and His Excellency.

E.A.V.—21-8-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—22-8-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—23-8-19.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

S.J.A.—25-8-19.

J. B. BROWN—26-8-19.

A. F. G. MOSCARDI—27-8-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be circulated for approval.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—27-8-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—28-8-19.

L. D[AVIDSON]—28-8-19.

I agree to the order, on the understanding that it is issued subject to what I said in a note on 25th April 1919, with reference to my See page 2 above.

R.R.—28-8-19.

Surgeon.

W[ILLINGTON]—29-8-19.

With reference to His Excellency's orders above the Public Works Department will apparently take steps for the construction of new quarters for the Government House Surgeon. A fresh paragraph has been added to the draft. If approved, the draft as thus added to will be issued.

E.A.V.—2-9-19.

C.R.—2-9-19.

R.R.—2-9-19.

[G.O. No. 1054, Home (Education), dated 3rd September 1919.]

University Library.-

Approving, in modification of previous orders, the proposal to construct the new ----- buildings on the site of the Marine Villa.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 622, Edl., dated the 1st July 1913. 191

" " " " 3476, Rev., " the 27th November 1913. 191

AD ALSO:-

C. No. 778-B, From the Registrar, University No. 2585, dated the 10th April 1919 of Madras

" " " " " " " " 191

" " " " " " " " 191

ORDER.

No. 1054 dated 3-9-1919

P.S.

Notes to be printed.

After a careful consideration of the representations of the Syndicate of the University of Madras, the Govt. are pleased, in modification of G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913, to approve the proposal to build the new University Library buildings on the site of "Marine Villa" instead of on the site alienated for the purpose in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th Novr. 1913.

2. Orders will issue in the Revenue Dept. regarding the formal alienation of the site to the University and as regards the resumption of the site

alienated

24/ second

the Revenue Dept. ~~Sanitation~~

reg. the ^{formal} alienation of the

Madras ~~Madras~~ site ~~to the~~

~~to the University~~

~~The question of~~
and as regards the resumption
assuming the site alienated to the
University in G.O. No. 3476 Rev;
d/ 27th Nov. 1913. ~~is also submitted~~
to the Rev. Dept. for a ~~co-~~operative
consultation with the
University Syndicate

17.6.19

18/6/19

3/7/19

To the Registrar, University of

Madras }
" Revenue Dept. }
" P.W. Dept. } with notes

replied with

10/9/19

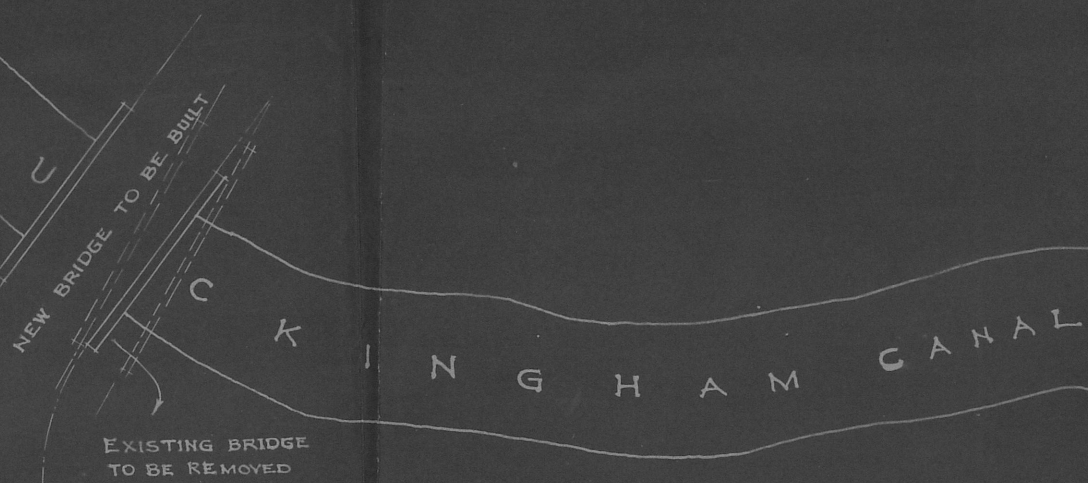
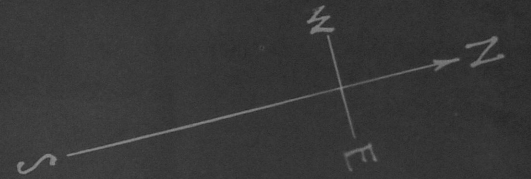
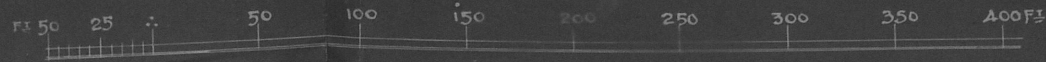
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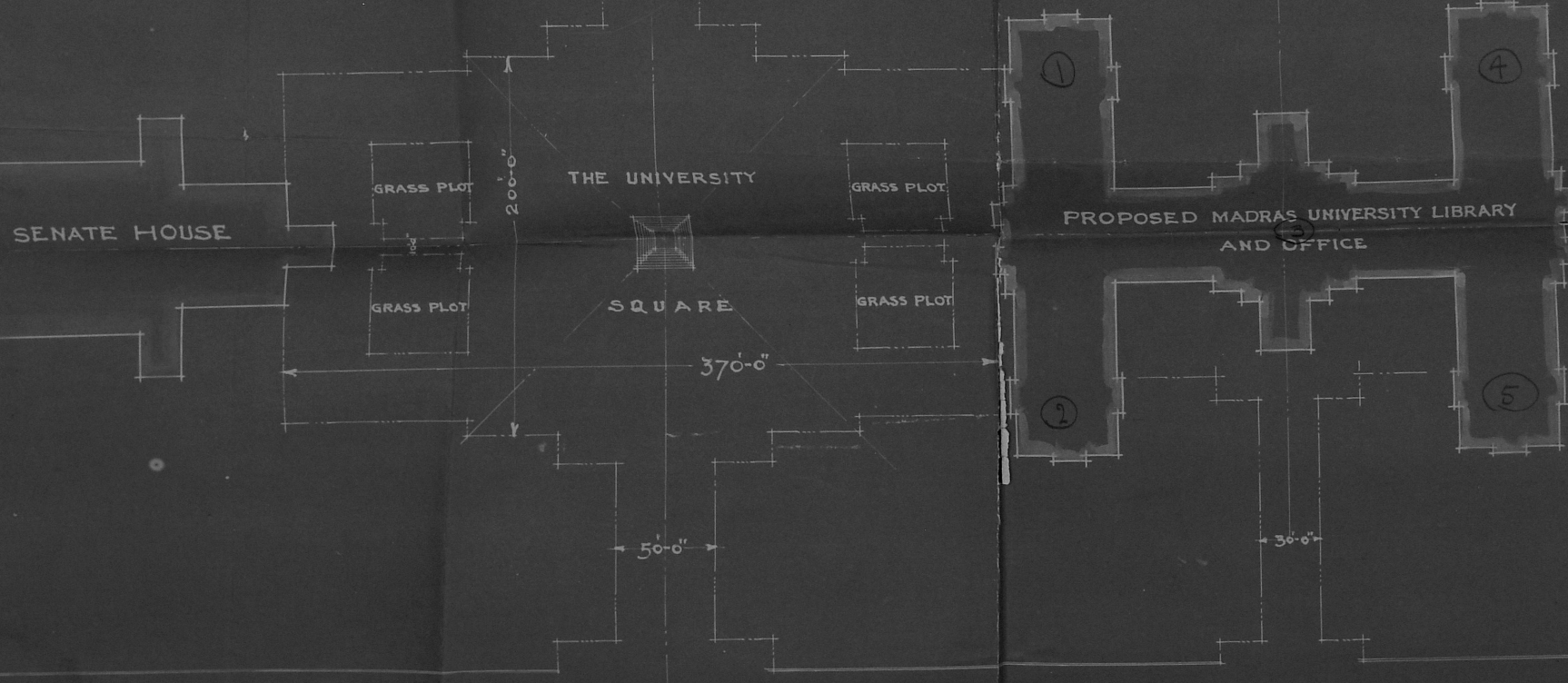
PROPOSED SITE PLAN.
FOR
MADRAS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY & OFFICE.

Nº C.A. 181
1919

SCALE 1 INCH = 50 FT.



MARINE VILLA COMPOUND



M A R I N A

TO GEORGE TOWN

NAPIER BRIDGE

P. Jackson
AS CONSULTING ARCHITECT
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
1919

Drawn and Traced by
A. Chander
14/3/19

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.
NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1054, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 3rd SEPTEMBER 1919

[SUBJECT.—Site for the construction of University Library buildings.]

		Previous papers:	
G.O.	59, Educational, 24th January 1913	G.O. 1465, Educational, 21st December 1914	
"	445 " 14th May "	" 1066, " 27th September 1915	
"	565-6 " 14th June "	" 1328 " 15th November "	
"	622, Educational, 1st July "	" 410 W. " 16th March 1917	
"	1340 W., 4th "	" W. Memorandum 2610-C, 21st April "	
"	3476, Revenue, 27th November "	" 4266-C, 1st July 1919	

It is noted that the hostilities have ceased the Home (Education) Department may be requested u.o. to ascertain from the University (Syndicate) whether it now proposes to take up the construction of the University Library buildings.

R.R.—6-3-19.
V.S.—7-3-19.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

R. F. STONEY—8-3-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.
A draft memorandum to the Syndicate is submitted for approval.
G.N.—12-3-19.
T.K.—12-3-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAK—15-3-19.
R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—18-3-19.
[Memorandum No. 496-B-1, Home (Education), dated 18th March 1919.]

Demi-official—from A. C. DUFF, Esq., I.C.S., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Madras, the 15th April 1919.

I am to ask you kindly to send on arrival at Ootacamund the file relating to the proposed grant of 'Marine Villa' site for University buildings.

From the Registrar, University of Madras, No. 2585, dated the 10th April 1919.
The file referred to in the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor's *demi-official* is submitted.

2. In 1912 the Syndicate of the University of Madras applied for the grant to them of the site known as the 'Marine Villa' for the construction of the necessary buildings for the University Library. The application had to be rejected because Sir Murray Hammick and Lord Pentland objected to the proposal—vide portions sidelined on pages 3, 4, 5 and 10 of the notes to G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913. After a consideration of other possible sites an extent of two cawnies and 1,076 square feet to the west of the Senate House buildings was eventually alienated to the University; and the foundation stone was laid by His



2 NOTES TO G.O. No. 1054, HOME (EDUCATION), 3RD SEPTEMBER 1919
 Excellency the Viceroy on this site (cf. G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913).
 Not yet examined. That body has just made a strong representation
 L.D.—24-4-19. stating that the site already given to it is not
 requirements as developed since and that the 'Marine Villa' site originally suggested might be
 made over to it.
 E.A.V.—22-4-19.

O.R.—22-4-19.
 R.R.—23-4-19.
 To His Excellency, please, as requested in Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor's
 demi-official of 15th April 1919.

I certainly am of opinion that if anyone has the 'Marine Villa' site, it should be the
 University. L.D.[AVIDSON]—24-4-19.
 It is too early for me to give any definite opinion on this matter, but generally speaking, I
 would certainly consider the handing over of the site provided the Surgeon to the Governor was
 suitably housed elsewhere before the final transfer was made: W[ILLINGTON]—25-4-19.

Now take up the University letter and note thereon. Enquire also if there is any proposal
 to construct elsewhere a residence for the Surgeon to His Excellency. R.R.—26-4-19.

It has been accepted on all hands that the proposed buildings for the University Library
 must be in close proximity to the Senate House. The sites originally thought of for the purpose
 were three in number:—

(i) the site of the 'Marine Villa';
 (ii) the site to the south of the Senate House adjoining the Revenue Board's office
 buildings; and

(iii) the one to the west of the Senate House containing the tiffin rooms, stables, latrines
 and motor garages of the Board of Revenue (Site Committee's proceedings at page 3 of G.O.
 No. 622, Educational, dated 1st July 1913).

2. Of the above, No. (ii) was easily eschewed as the construction of other buildings thereon
 would seriously interfere with the conveniences of the Board of Revenue. As regards site
 No. (iii), the Site Committee on the question recorded as follows:—

"It is too low lying and suited only for such buildings as are at present on it, viz., tiffin
 rooms of the Board of Revenue, stables, garages and latrines."
 The Board of Revenue was also not inclined to allow the University to utilize this ground for its
 new buildings as the greater portion of the site would be needed for the then projected ex-cis
 laboratory and for new tiffin rooms. It had no objection for any space in the northern wing, after
 providing for these, being made over to the University. The Board accordingly strongly
 protested against placing any portion of the site facing its buildings at the disposal of the
 University before its own requirements were met (page 5 of G.O. No. 622, Educational, dated
 1st July 1913).

3. It was easily perceived that the site could not meet the aforesaid needs of the Board and
 at the same time provide space for University buildings. As the Government were not inclined
 to give up the only alternative site, the 'Marine Villa' site, the Board's interests had to give
 way; and the whole of the site to the west of the Senate House was ordered to be given over to
 the University, the Board being asked to find out other sites for its laboratory, tiffin rooms,
 garages, etc.

4. The Syndicate's representation now is that the site already selected, and on which the
 foundation stone has been laid by the Viceroy, is objectionable in at least two respects:—

(i) that the buildings, as now conceived, form an extensive and pretentious block in that
 it would include provision for new lecture halls and offices and represent a valuable addition to
 the architectural features of the neighbourhood and as such should appropriately be on a promi-
 nent site; and

(ii) that Mr. Murray, late Chief Engineer, had, on investigation, found the soil to be
 'made up' which would not give safe foundations for the building unless at an extra cost of
 about Rs. 30,000. (This circumstance is reported to have influenced Sir Harold Stuart to say
 that he would try to secure for the University the site of the 'Marine Villa'). (Page 34 of
 G.O. No. 410 W., dated 16th March 1917).

5. As regards the first point, it is pointed out that the new building will now be four or five
 times its original dimensions and that its cost will now be about 7½ lakhs as against 3 lakhs
 originally contemplated. There is thus no doubt that the new building will be a very important
 one and will have to be suitably located. Sir Harold Stuart thought that the site to the west of
 the Senate House was an equally prominent one; but Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar would seem

to have thought otherwise. The latter was of the opinion that a fine building on the 'Marine Villa' site would add to the attractiveness of the Marina. Notwithstanding the fact that a new building on the western site could have a frontage on the Wallajah Road there will be no gain-saying that it will be largely overshadowed by the mass of the Senate House buildings. It may therefore be conceded that a new block of imposing buildings on the 'Marine Villa' site would be preferable.

6. The other objection seems to be more weighty. The University do not want to take the risk of putting such a costly building on foundations of doubtful stability. The Public Works Department may be asked again to advise, if the other objection is not to be allowed.

R.R.—5-5-19.

7. Objections that were raised to the 'Marine Villa' site were:—

(i) that it was exposed to the sea breeze which might prove injurious to the books in the library;

(ii) that it is not sheltered from dust; and

(iii) that it will entail the necessity for providing a separate residence for the Governor's Surgeon.

The first point has been fully answered in Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar's note, dated 7th August 1912, on page 4 of notes with G.O. No. 622, dated the 1st July 1912. In respect of the second, it may be pointed out that the Marina road has been tarred by the Corporation and the dust nuisance in the locality is considerably minimised. The third point has been disposed of by His Excellency's note on page 3 above. The Public Works Department may be asked to state, with reference to Secretary's note, dated 26th April 1919, on page 2 above, whether they have had any proposals for building new quarters for the Surgeon.

E.A.V.—4-5-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—4-5-19.

It is clear that if the 'Marine Villa' site be not available we will have to go elsewhere perhaps far away from the Senate House. To the Public Works Department for favour of furnishing the information at B.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—5-5-19.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Proposals to construct a residence for the Surgeon to His Excellency the Governor.—In his letter No. 3792, dated 23rd May 1912, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle (vide extract on page 3 of Memorandum No. 6722 C., dated 20th July 1912), the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor stated that His Excellency agreed with Major Gilbert, Surgeon to His Excellency, in considering that the Surgeon's house at Madras was not fit to live in, and therefore wished to have a plan and estimate prepared for the construction of a new house. It is understood from the V Circle office that plans and estimate for constructing a residence in the Government House Park were prepared accordingly by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.

2. Subsequently in a demi-official, dated 27th November 1912 (vide page 1 of Memorandum No. 11747 C., dated 13th December 1912) the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor wrote that His Excellency suggested allotting 'Marine Villa' for the Body Guard officers, and wished to build a new residence for his Surgeon, accommodation being provided for a married couple, nurse and child. His Excellency wanted a house designed which would be an addition to the Government House grounds, its external appearance being therefore of considerable importance. The Consulting Architect was accordingly asked to prepare a suitable design. But in December 1912, His Excellency thought that in the event of connecting the Banqueting Hall with the main house, it might be better to make it a two-storied building with the Surgeon's quarters on the top. His Excellency accordingly ordered that the question of the Surgeon's quarters must remain in abeyance.

3. Owing to the above decision, the proposals for constructing a new residence for the Surgeon were dropped, and in G.O. No. 1340 W., dated 4th July 1913, certain improvements to the 'Marine Villa' were sanctioned.

There are no other papers on the subject in this department. The file may now be returned to Home (Education) ~~was~~.

C.J.O.—17-5-19.

J.R.—17-5-19.

S. BHASKARA AYYAR—19-5-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted.

C.R.—20-5-19.

It is clear that the Surgeon will be provided with a residence elsewhere in the Government House Park. Owing to the necessity of the university to begin the Library buildings, orders are requested that the question of the Surgeon's residence be taken up now.

The idea of allotting 'Marine Villa' to Body Guard officers when it becomes available may be formally dropped.

R.R.—21-5-19.

There is no doubt that 'Marine Villa' is by far the most eligible site for the University Library and that it would be difficult—perhaps impossible—to provide any other suitable site in the vicinity of the Senate House.

Yes, please. I might do this when I am in Madras next month.

His Excellency will no doubt wish to consider on the spot the question of sites for houses for his Surgeon and the Body Guard officers.

W[ILLINGTON]—23-5-19.

L. D[AN]IDSON—23-5-19.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Please send back the file to me on the 7th June to be taken down to Madras for reference.

A. C. DUFF—26-5-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the file may be forwarded ~~and~~ to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

E.A.V.—5-6-19.

C.R.—5-6-19.

R.R.—5-6-19.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Returned with thanks.

(By order)

A.C.D.—16-6-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A draft order is submitted. The site with the buildings will have to be alienated to the University by the Revenue Department after obtaining alienation statements from the Board of Revenue. The draft, if approved, may be sent ~~and~~ to Revenue and Public Works for acceptance.

The Revenue Department will also have to consider the desirability of revoking the alienation orders in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913. A separate report on the subject from the University will have to be called for.

E.A.V.—17-6-19.

Possibly the site or a portion of it will still be needed by the University for minor structures.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—18-6-19.

I do not see His Excellency's orders anywhere. Could you not first get them before drafting?

R.R.—19-6-19.

The draft may be submitted to His Excellency for approval. From His Excellency's note on page 1 above and Honourable Member's note on page —, it was thought that there was justification for a draft to be prepared and submitted again for approval. His Excellency's note at page 1 was with reference to the selection of site for the Surgeon's quarters and the Body Guard officers' houses.

C.R.—19-6-19.

The draft will be circulated for consideration and orders.

R.R.—20-6-19.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted subject to the substitution of the word 'regarding' for 'sanctioning' in paragraph 2 of the draft since it may be that the Government of India's sanction would be required.

J.B.B.—24-6-19.

A.F.G.M.—27-6-19.

2. On receipt of the copy of the Home (Education) Department's order on this file the Board may be asked to submit definite proposals for alienation with the necessary statements and to report (in consultation with the University authorities) on the question of resumption of the site alienated in 1913.

J. B. BROWN—24-6-19.
The Honourable Member (Revenue) should see.
A. F. G. MOSCARDI—27-6-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.
May be circulated.
C.R.—1-7-19.
R.R.—3-7-19.

His Excellency has yet to give a final decision.
L. D. [AVIDSON]—7-7-19.

The draft should provide for the site already alienated being restored.
C. G. TODHUNTER—7-7-19.

I approve the 'Marine Villa' site being definitely reserved for the University. My only doubt is whether it is all wanted for University purposes. Perhaps Public Works Department would report on this matter. The frontage is a very large one and we might possibly be able to make use of it for other purposes besides.

If Public Works Department say, and other departments concerned say, it should all go to the University, I approve the draft, subject to Mr. Todhunter's suggested addition.

The file may be sent to the Public Works Department for remarks (i) as to whether the whole of the land with the full frontage will be needed for the purposes of the University and (ii) whether there are any other purposes for which there is need for site on this land. From the current letter it is observed that the University authorities have been in correspondence with the Chief Engineer and the Consulting Architect on the question of University Library. The former should have intimated to those officers their requirements.

C.R.—11-7-19.
R.R.—12-7-19.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Please see note by the Consulting Architect attached.

The whole of the land and frontage is required and I would respectfully submit with reference to His Excellency's inquiry that the whole of the site is required for the University Library and if other buildings were erected on the site the lay out would not be satisfactory. It will however be advisable in handing over the land to the University authorities to safeguard our interests and I would add to the Government Order the following words "but reserving such land as the Government may find it necessary for enlarging the roads which bound the site on the south and east."

W. HUTTON—19-8-19.

Consulting Architect's note.

In considering the question of putting the University Library on the 'Marine Villa' site there seem to be two chief points to bear in mind—

- (1) its relation to the Senate House,
- (2) its relation to the Marina.

Ordinarily, in putting an important building on the Marina one would roughly lay down that it should not be placed nearer the road way than the present Senate House.

W.H.—19-8-19.

In this case it seems to me to be of vital importance that the main axis of the new Library should be on the main axis of the existing Senate House. Please see the sketch site plan.

W.H.—19-8-19.

C.A. No. 181/19 which shows what I mean. This will involve the projecting wings of the Library coming nearer the Marina road way than the Senate House, but they will still be over 100 feet away and the main feature of the design, the central 60 feet dome, will be still further back on the Senate House axis. It is possible that the existing road leading past Government House to the Marina may one day become of considerably more importance than it is at present. If it were widened and planted with trees, it would make a magnificent approach to the Marina, terminating as I have pictured it on a 'University square' with grass lawns in front of the two University buildings, and possibly a statue of a famous educationalist in the centre of the square.

As a matter of fact we will probably adopt a new alignment for this road, the idea being that it should be aligned straight on Government House, Madras, so that we will have a vista straight to the sea. This will be borne in mind and taken up in connexion with another case.

W.H.—19-8-19.

On my sketch I have shown the two buildings about 120 yards apart; if they are any nearer Mr. Thomas' 60 feet dome will dwarf the Senate House, a thing to be avoided at all costs. It may even be necessary to place them further apart than this, but I don't think so.

No harm in that, I think.

W.H.—19-8-19.

S. J. A.

If the above views are accepted, it will be seen that the whole of the 'Marine Villa' site will

I quite agree.

W.H.—19-8-19.

use of the Library. C.A. No. 181/19 only pretends to be an idea, not a final considered lay out.

This I am taking up separately.

W.H.—19-8-19.

My sketch shows the existing road way only, but I cannot imagine any claims of the Marina being greater than that of the Senate House

We want also 30 feet borings; draft to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, will issue.

W.H.—19-8-19.

be required for the Library and that there should be no question of putting any other building there except subsidiary ones for the

I am of the opinion that before the exact position is fixed the whole question of the widening of the Marina should be considered.

but I cannot imagine any claims of the Marina to have the new building on its axis. I have marked on C.A. No. 181/19 five points in red.

These are the five domes and the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, may perhaps be asked to have trial pits made at these points.

W. J. NICHOLLS—15-8-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

With reference to His Excellency's note, dated 10th July 1919 (page 1, ante), it is observed that both the Consulting Architect and the Chief Engineer are of opinion that the whole of the 'Marine' Villa site with its entire frontage will be required for University purposes. Also it is not stated that land on this site is required for other purposes. It does not seem necessary to consult other departments now that the whole site is needed for the University and the Public Works Department, who are likely to know, are not obviously aware of any (vide His Excellency's note on page—supra).

2. Two suggestions for amendment of the draft are made. The Honourable Member (Revenue) would provide for the resumption of the site already alienated in G.O. No. 3476, Revenue, dated 27th November 1913. As already noted, this might involve a reference to the University. The point may however be mentioned in the draft for Revenue to take action on. Paragraph 3 in red ink is for orders.

The second suggestion is that of the Chief Engineer—to reserve to Government the right to exclude such portion of the land as might be required for enlarging the roads bounding the site on the south and west. Submitted that it seems appropriate to provide for this reservation in the order which the Revenue Department may eventually issue, formally alienating the land.

L.D.—28-8-19.

3. The draft may again go to Revenue for acceptance. On its return the case may be circulated to the Honourable Member and His Excellency.

E.A.V.H.—21-8-19.

C. RAMANUSIA ACHARIYAR—22-8-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—23-8-19.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

S.G.D.—25-8-19.

J. B. BROWN—26-8-19.

A. F. G. MOSCARDI—27-8-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be circulated for approval.

C.R.—27-8-19.

R.R.—28-8-19.

L. D[AVIDSON]—28-8-19.

I agree to the order, on the understanding that it is issued subject to what I said in a note on 25th April 1919, with reference to my

See page 1 above.

R.R.—28-8-19.

Surgeon.

W[ILLINGTONS]—29-8-19.

With reference to His Excellency's orders above the Public Works Department will apparently take steps for the construction of new quarters for the Government House Surgeon. A fresh paragraph has been added to the draft. If approved, the draft as thus added to will be issued.

E.A.V.—2-9-19.

C.R.—2-9-19.

R.R.—2-9-19.

[G.O. No. 1054, Home (Education), dated 3rd September 1919.]

5 July

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