

Home (1918) Department.

(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 786

DATED 21-6-1918

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Conservation Notes.

Recording-----on the Gingea Fort in the South Arcot
district submitted by the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

9,080-2-17.

C.P.-29.

DEPARTMENT.

Received



Registered

191

Subject.

Submitting printed copies of Inspection Notes on
Gingee Fort, Gingee, South Arcot District, dated the 31st
March 1919.

ENCLOSURES

No. 2

State copies

No. 379

Station Kotagiri, Dated the 4th June 1919

From (Name) A.H. Longhurst Esq.

(Designation) Superintendent, Archaeological Survey
Department, Southern Circle.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home Education. Department.
Ootacamund.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith in duplicate
copies of my Inspection Notes on Gingee Fort, Gingee, South
Arcot District dated the 31st March 1919.

2. Copies of the inspection notes in question have been
forwarded to the Director General of Archaeology, Superintend-
ing Engineer VII circle and the Collector of South Arcot
District for information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A.H. Longhurst
Superintendent.

Items 514-517 at
Pt 19-20 of the
list at (2)

INSPECTION NOTES ON GINGEE FORT, GINGEE, SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT.

M 8-14 of Geo.
No 1758 (Pub)
8-12-15
(5)

In March 1919 I inspected the repairs to Gingee Fort proposed in my printed inspection notes, dated the 31st August 1915. Excellent progress has been made in removing rank vegetation, improving the roads and pathways and repairing the gateways leading up to Rajagiri, improving the steps leading up to Krishnagiri and several minor buildings have also been repaired, but there are still a number of important works which have not yet been undertaken, these are the following:—

1. *Rajagiri*.—The interior of the Audience Hall should be whitewashed from roof to floor. It is at present in a very dirty condition and as this building is generally required for temporary occupation whenever His Excellency the Governor and party, or other distinguished visitors inspect Rajagiri, the building should be clean and fit for that purpose. Moreover, this work is necessary in order to impart artificial light to the interior in order to show off its fine proportions and nature of construction and also to hide the patch repairs of the past and the numerous names scribbled all over the lower portion of the walls. The iron gate proposed by me has been fixed but care should be taken to see that it is kept locked after the building has been whitewashed. It should not be whitewashed a glaring white, but a pale buff colour.

2. *The Flagstaff*.—Repair the base with new brickwork and point the old where necessary. Plaster the top to make same watertight and clear the ground all round and slope for drainage.

3. *Gangway*.—In paragraph 2 of my inspection notes of 1915 mentioned above, I suggested that the wooden bridge, or rather gangway, which spans the chasm which separates the citadel on the summit of Rajagiri from the rest of the hill, should be given two coats of oil paint to protect the wooden work. As this repair was not done the posts and rails have since become rotten and some are in a dangerous condition. The wooden gangway is carried on two iron girders and fortunately the latter are in good order. What is now required is a new gangway and it should be made of iron and similar in construction to a ship's gangway (like those in use at the Madras Harbour) and this should be securely fastened on to the two girders spanning the chasm. This is an urgent matter that should be attended to at once. It is useless to renew the wooden posts of the old gangway as the latter was badly designed and constructed

to 9 ibid

from the first and the side rails are far too low. It should be remembered that this gangway is the only means of reaching the citadel on Rajagiri and therefore the new gangway should be constructed of iron with a boarded floor.

4. *Gateways*.—All the gateways leading up to Rajagiri have been numbered and classed as "Mandapams." The numbers are useful but the word "Mandapam" painted on the front of each gateway is not only unnecessary but it is misleading and very unsightly. In future the numbers and names placed on any buildings at Gingee should be placed on the underside or back of the stone lintel of the door frame or in a convenient place within such buildings. When placed outside, they are unsightly and spoil photographs of such buildings, the paint too does not last long when exposed continually to sun and rain and the names and numbers have to be constantly repainted in order to keep them clear and sharp. I understand it was the Subdivisional Officer who named all the gateways and guard-rooms "Mandapams" and ordered the fronts of these buildings to be disfigured in this manner. If so, in future, he should obtain my approval before he starts any little "improvements" of this kind.

5. *Trees*.—No trees should be planted along the roads or pathways to the buildings which will, when they grow large, obstruct the view of such buildings from the roads or pathways. All the buildings should stand in the open so that they can be seen and photographed from any point of view. When jungle growth is removed, it should be rooted out, not merely cut down. The open space in front of the barrack square, and in fact round all the buildings and gateways at Gingee, should be free from all bushes, loose stone and rubbish. The ground should be levelled and sloped away from the buildings to ensure proper drainage and only grass should be permitted to grow on such sites. The Overseer should inspect some of the buildings daily and take two men with him and they should be provided with baskets and mamuties and he should personally show them how the sites are to be kept clean and tidy. I took the Overseer round and showed him myself, so there is no excuse in future for not keeping the ground around these buildings in good order. Whenever earth is required for mending roads or pathways, it should be taken from some spot out of sight, as it is quite unnecessary to spoil the sites with pits and trenches dug close to the main roads and pathways. It would be as well if the Sub-Divisional Officer were requested to see that these orders are carried out by the Overseer in charge. When any repairs are carried out too,

all trace of the recent work should be removed before the scaffolding is taken away. Heaps of broken brick, dumps of lime mortar trenches, etc, should be removed and the building and surrounding ground thoroughly cleaned before the work is considered finished. In most cases, this has not been done and many of the recent works are very untidy in consequence. All this indicates careless supervision on the part of those responsible for the work.

6. *Krishnagiri*.—Repair the dome, roof, ceilings, arches, balcony windows, floor and terrace below, of the building known as the Audience Chamber, with new brickwork and plaster so as to put this building into a thorough good state of repair. Its present decayed condition and ruined dome is due to neglect. When the building has been thoroughly repaired it should be colour-washed a light buff colour.

7. *Granary*.—One of the two granaries on Krishnagiri is badly cracked at one of the gable ends and I pointed this out to the Overseer on the spot. This crack should be pointed outside and it would be as well to replaster the entire roof and cornice. There are several large granaries and a similar type of building known as the Gymnasium in the Lower Fort, all of these should be carefully inspected during the rains and if it is noted that any of their barrel-vaulted roofs are in a leaky condition the entire roof outside should be replastered. This is a very important matter as once these roofs start to seriously crack nothing can save them from falling. Pointing the cracks inside is useless unless the outside is thoroughly watertight.

8. Provide a new entrance into Krishnagiri at the head of the flight of steps leading up from the ramparts below on the lines indicated to the Overseer. Some of the steps too require resetting here and there and the parapet around the citadel walls of Krishnagiri should be saved from further decay by plastering the exposed masonry and restoring the coping along the walls where necessary.

9. *Royal Battery*.—Restore the flight of steps leading up to this battery from Krishnagiri so that visitors may approach it from that side, pass through it and come out at the building known as the jail. The entire line of fortifications connecting Krishnagiri with the foot of Chandrayan Drug should be regarded as one of the monuments to be conserved. It should be free from rank vegetation, loose stone and rubbish. Pits should be filled up in the ramparts and the latter should serve as a level grass covered pathway

Сортовое РВ. Д. 19/10 инициалы
и в. Зусманов

with the work. **P** From para 2 of the
 Supd's letter, it appears that
 only the final copy of the Inspn
 notes has been forwarded to
 the D.G. This is in contravention
 of the instructions contained
 in the Comd of India's letter no
 323 of 24.8.11, in which it is laid
 down that copies of con-
 servation notes shd be submitted
 to the D.G. in proof. But the
 S.A.S. may perhaps ~~be~~ contend
 that ^{some} ~~the~~ items of repair in the present
 case are urgent & that the ~~disposal~~
 is important and that therefore the
 usual procedure need not be fol-
 lowed. In any case it is
 hardly necessary to draw his
 attention ^{now} to the ~~instructions~~ ^{instructions} referred to
 above, as he has already been
 directed to follow the usual pro-
 cedure in future.

p. 1cf

(T)

cf para 3 of the notes p. 2 of

vide para 2 of ^{India's} ~~the~~ letter of
 p. 2 of G.O. No 704 (Pub) (L)
 11.6.13

* orders under date
 of also G.O. No 206 (Gen)
 15.2.19
 (V)

34
 17.6.19
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When given for copying
 When copied
 When examined
 When signed

191

17/3/19

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 191 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

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 IN ORIGINAL.

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