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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 82 Press / Mis.

95-96.

Dated 24—1— 1892.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

23.11.39

No. 95. Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on papers relating to the restoration of Tirumala Naik's Palace at Madura. } (Dated 11th January 1872, No. 69.)

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1872, No. 82.

With reference to paragraph 21 of the President's Minute, recorded in the above Proceedings, the Government direct the Acting Collector of Madura to take the necessary steps for selling to the best advantage the building in which the Collector and his establishment are now accommodated.

2. The Acting Collector will, if possible, make it a condition of sale that the Government shall have the right to remain as tenants in the building, at an appropriate rent, for a period not exceeding two years from the date of sale.

3. The price obtained will be carried to account of the restoration of the Palace, particularly for the purpose of completing the quarters destined for the Collector and Judge.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Madura, with Public Works Proceedings, No. 69, and the sketch.
" Revenue Department.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Read the following papers :—

No. 133. From the Consulting Architect to Government.

(Here enter No. 250, dated 10th November 1871.)

No. 134. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

As I recently have had an opportunity of inspecting the works of the Madura Palace in company with Mr. Chisholm, it may be right that I should record my opinion as to the progress which has been made and as to the course that should be pursued in future.

II.—In order to render the subject more transparent to the Members of Government, and to save the trouble of referring to past correspondence, I may be permitted to offer a brief description of the building in connection with the accompanying sketch which will explain, at a glance, what has been done and what, in my opinion, ought to be done.

III.—The group of buildings called Tirumala Naik's Palace, as we now possess them, embody the following portions more or less distinct from each other :—

(1.) A great court, marked on the sketch, A A, with its dependencies, including its surrounding porticos B B, two square halls C C, a waggon-vaulted vestibule D, a large circular hall under a great dome E, and a considerable area divided, by rows of columns, with spaces of various forms and dimensions under domiform or vaulted roofs F F.

(2.) A row of large rooms, at present three in number, behind the great circular hall, which are marked in the sketch G G.

(3.) A great oblong vaulted hall with lateral aisles, which are divided into two stories, H H.

(4.) A small circular building covered by a dome and marked I, attached to the oblong hall.

(5.) A range of rooms outside the main wall of the building near the present entrance to great Court, J J.

IV.—The works undertaken by Mr. Chisholm during the last two years have had two objects : the restoration of ruinous and dangerous portions of the building, a mechanical work ; and the restoration of the old mural painting, a decorative work. Both operations were necessary in order to convince the Government and the public that the expenditure of Government funds proposed could be rendered both useful and ornamental.

V.—The mechanical restorations to which I refer provided for the following objects :—

(1.) For the repair and security of the principal facade of the great court K K, of which a photograph is enclosed, exhibiting its former condition. This facade extends in front of the waggon-vaulted vestibule D and of the great circular hall E, used as the Court of the Civil and Session Judge. It threatened an imminent ruin, and if it had fallen it would have drawn after it the vestibule D and the hall itself E. The restoration was indispensable, and it has been happily

accomplished. The waggon-shaped roof of the vestibule has been secured by iron ties, missing pillars have been supplied, the roof has been rendered water-tight, a mass of masonry which had fallen out of the central arch of the facade has been replaced, the great cornice has been restored, and the facade itself towards the great court has been secured against further decay by being replastered after the old models. These works conducted, in part, at an elevation of more than eighty feet under very critical conditions reflect much credit on the Government Architect and his native subordinates, whose courage must often have been severely tried.

Regarding the question in a material or utilitarian point of view this work saved the present Court-house.

(2.) Two rooms, G G, behind the Court-house have been repaired. These rooms are destined eventually, it is hoped, for the accommodation of the Collector; but they will be required meanwhile for the use of the Civil and Session Court which cannot continue to sit, with convenience, under the great dome E, while the works are being prosecuted in its immediate neighbourhood.

VI.—The decorative restorations embrace the following objects :—

(1.) The repainting of the waggon-shaped vault in the vestibule D, of which I have spoken above.

(2.) The painting of a small dome in the pillared space marked F.

(3.) The painting of the ceilings of the two apartments intended for the temporary accommodation of the Civil and Session Court, G G.

I cannot affirm that these restorations of colour will recommend themselves to the taste of every spectator in every particular, but I think them, on the whole, extremely successful, and they are generally admired. The old method of decoration, of which excellent specimens remain, has been, for the most part, respected, and I am bound to state that the only colour which at first sight offended my eye is one that is distinctly sanctioned by precedent in a contemporary building. No doubt much will be gained by experience in this matter. The restoration of colour in a native structure has never before been attempted under European direction in this Presidency and the unassisted native has almost forgotten the arts of his forefathers.

(4.) The restoration of the plaster figures and patterns in the vestibule D and on the facade of the great court K. The figures are grotesques of various kinds, in bestial or human types; they do not include any of the popular divinities of the country. The old models have been adhered to, and, if the execution is inferior to the work of the ancient artists, this defect is scarcely apparent to the eye on account of the great elevation at which these objects are, for the most part, placed. In modelling, as in painting, a decline in the skill of the native artificer is to be lamented, but these very works are a practical school in which he may recover his dexterity.

VII.—Such being in a few words the mechanical and decorative restorations carried out for Government by Mr. Chisholm in the last two years, I think it right to state that they have been effected at a very moderate outlay. The whole expenditure up to the end of the current official year will be Rupees 20,000, of which, approximately, Rupees 14,000 have been appropriated to substantial repairs, and Rupees 6,000 to ornament. It is hoped that these figures may be satisfactory to some who have expressed an apprehension that the Government in prosecuting æsthelic designs may be led to neglect the solid interests of the country.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th January 1872.

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VIII.—In addition to the works conducted for Government by Mr. Chisholm he has directed the adaptation of an external portion of the building, marked J J, for the Municipality of Madura, which has shown an intelligent and patriotic interest in the restoration of a national monument. The Municipal office thus provided has cost about Rupees 5,000. The same amount of accommodation could not have been obtained for a smaller charge in any other way. The Municipal Commission of Madura have thus helped the Government in a good work, gratified their own taste, and done no injustice to their public trust.

IX.—I now proceed to submit my impressions with reference to the manner in which the works at the Madura Palace should be conducted in future, and the objects to which they should be directed. The works of restoration should be conducted patiently and gradually, in the spirit which has animated the restorers of our Cathedrals in England, by the continuous application of small annual grants. Few who are now living in India will see the end, but successive Governments may be satisfied if they contribute to it. It has now been shown that the old structure can be rendered secure and can be rendered ornamental. We should move in the same prudent groove. I would advise Government to appropriate the usual annual grant, Rupees 10,000, for next year, and that it should be exclusively employed, according to Mr. Chisholm's advice, for the repairs and security of the most ruinous parts of the building. Mr. Chisholm should be called upon to submit a report stating the specific objects to which these repairs should be directed, and the Department of Public Works should be instructed to assist him in the preparation of plans and estimates for this purpose.

X.—It will be remarked, however, that if the ordinary Government grant of Rupees 10,000 be appropriated merely to the repair of ruinous portions of the building, which are in a great measure remote from the portions most available for immediate public use, little would be done, for sometime, towards the main object we have at heart, that is the provision of suitable, convenient, and secure accommodation for the principal public offices of the Madura District. The Government may think it advisable, therefore,

(1) to lay down some fixed plan for the appropriation of various portions of the building; and,

(2) to consider whether some means may not be found for accelerating the object in view without imposing any charge on the public revenue.

XI.—The Palace of Madura is large enough to hold many public offices, but some respect must be shown for the design and proportions of the building. Some sacrifice of architectural effect must be made to utility, but that sacrifice should not be greater than is indispensable. It appears to me that seven public offices

may be conveniently accommodated without any serious detriment to artistic beauty :—

(1).—The Collector's Cutcherry.
(2).—The Court of the Civil and Sessions Judge.
(3).—The District Moonsiff's Court.
(4).—The Department of Public Works.
(5).—The Forest Department.
(6).—The Sub-Magistrate's Court.
(7).—The Talook Cutcherry.

XII.—In the Collector's Cutcherry the following provision should be made :—

The Collector should have the whole area behind the great circular hall, now occupied by three large rooms, and all the pillared space to the south of the great circular hall. Of the three large rooms, G G, referred to, two would remain as they are, but the largest (which is about 70 feet long and 30 broad) would be divided into three. In this way five spacious, secure, and separate rooms would be available to this officer for his own use, for the Treasury, for the Registration office, for the records, and for his Assistant. The pillared space F F which can easily be rendered light, airy, and weather-tight, would give sitting and working room for any number of clerks.

XIII.—The great oblong hall H would be appropriated for the purposes of a Civil and Sessions Court, for which it is better suited than any building in the country. The aisles of the ground floor would be divided into small consulting and writing rooms for the Vakeels. The aisles above would be used for the Court records. The small contiguous circular building I, with its dependencies, would supply a private apartment for the Judge. The whole of the pillared space to the north of the great circular hall F F would be given over to the clerks of the Court, from which the space is easily accessible.

XIV.—The District Moonsiff's Court would be placed in the square hall on the north side of the great court C 1, in easy communication with the Civil and Sessions Court by the surrounding porticoes.

XV.—The Department of Public Works would be placed in the square hall on the south side of the great court C 2, in easy communication with the Collector's office at the adjacent end.

XVI.—The Forest Department would be placed in the gallery on the south side of the court between the Collector's office and the Department of Public Works.

XVII.—The Sub-Magistrate's Court would be placed in the gallery between the District Moonsiff's Court and the pillared space occupied by the establishment of the Civil and Sessions Court.

XVIII.—The Talook Cutcherry would be placed between the District Moonsiff's Court and the Municipal Office.

XIX.—No doubt these arrangements would necessitate the erection of low partitions, cutting the vista of the galleries and porticos here and there; but enough clear space would be left to show the majesty of the edifice, and the restoration which is contemplated has always been presented as an economical and useful, as well as an artistic enterprise.

XX.—Under the scheme submitted the great circular hall E, which I presume to have been the durbar hall of the ancient sovereigns, would remain unappropriated to any purely official purpose. I think it should be reserved as a vacant space, to separate the domain of the Collector from the domain of the Court. It would be available for public receptions and ceremonies, for public meetings, lectures, and other purposes of that nature. When the work of restoration has been completed it might afford an appropriate position for a commemorative statue of the Queen.

XXI.—While the regular appropriation of Rupees 10,000, due to the work in the course of next year, is being used for the repair of those portions of the building which might at any time collapse under the influence of the weather, it would be desirable to provide an extraordinary supply of funds to secure the Collector and the Judge as soon as possible in the possession of their respective apartments. This object can be attained in the following manner :—The Collector's Cutcherry is at present placed in an old building belonging to Government, not without antiquarian interest, but more crowded and inconvenient than could be well imagined by those who have never visited it. This building, which must at any rate be soon vacated as altogether unsuitable, is fortunately so placed as to have a considerable value in the market as a native residence or as a depôt for goods. The Acting Collector values it at more than Rupees 20,000. I would advise that the Government should direct this building to be sold, and that the price obtained should be carried to the account of the restoration of the palace, but particularly for the purpose of completing the quarters destined for the Collector and the Judge. In the Act of Sale a right might be stipulated on the part of Government to remain as tenants in the building, at an appropriate rent, for a period not exceeding two years. The purchase money would thus be immediately available, while the Cutcherry would not be disturbed before the new accommodation was prepared.

XXII.—I wish it was possible for me to predict how long it may take to accomplish the work on which the Government have embarked, or what aggregate outlay the scheme may eventually involve. After some of the most dangerous portions of the building have been secured in the course of next year, and the quarters for the Collector and Judge have been, at least provisionally, set in order, there will remain a long series of repairs and decorations throughout the interior; after that the pavements, the external facades, and the towers and pinnacles will all have to be objects of careful study and renewal; finally, the vicinity and approaches must be cleared and brought into harmony with the restored edifice. These works may easily occupy a period of fifteen years, and the application for every purpose of two lacs of rupees; but the time need not be grudged and the cost will not exceed the charge for a new Collector's Cutcherry, a new Civil and Sessions Court, and sufficient accommodation for the other subordinate departments provided for, which would undoubtedly reach the same sum at present rates.

XXIII.—Though it would be premature at this moment to undergo any great expenditure in buying up the hovels which, on two sides, approach close to the walls of the Palace, there is one native house, LL, which it would be of importance to purchase at once, as it almost blocks up the external entrance to the

two rooms which are to be temporarily used as the Civil and Sessions Court. The Acting Collector should be instructed to negotiate for the acquisition of this house, and to defray the cost from the funds provided by the sale of the old Cutcherry. The price will be no great matter.

XXIV.—In conclusion, I wish to express my sense of the ability and exertions of the Government Architect in giving effect to the instructions of Government in regard to this work, and the gratification I have felt in witnessing the interest which the Superintending Engineer, Colonel Roberts, the Acting Collector, Mr. McQuhae, and the native community have evinced in the progress of the undertaking.

MADRAS,
20*th November* 1871. (Signed) NAPIER.

No. 135. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1872, No. 69.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 8.

THE foregoing Minute of His Excellency the President will be communicated to the Public and the Revenue Departments, to the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division, and the Consulting Architect, and it will be laid on the Editor's table.

2. The arrangements proposed by His Excellency for the appropriation of various portions of the Palace will be adopted.

3. Mr. Chisholm will, with reference to paragraph 9, report the manner in which he would recommend that the grant of Rupees 10,000 to be made available for expenditure next year should be utilized.

4. Orders will be issued in the Financial Department for giving effect to the suggestion made in paragraph 21, with a view to providing funds for the special purpose of completing the accommodation in the Palace for the Collector and the Judge.

5. Paragraph 23 will be referred to the Revenue Department for the issue of the necessary orders to the Acting Collector.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Architect.
,, Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Public Department.
,, Revenue do.
,, Financial do.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Editor's table.

Exd. S T. Augustin.

Finance 1872 Despatches

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT.

&c., &c., &c.

S. G. 82.

Dated January 11th.

Recd. — 15 — 1 Encl.

Hon'ble Capt. Fenwick

G. O., 11th January 1872, No. 69.

JANUARY.

Nos. 133-135

No 56

Teroomala Naik's Palace at Madura.—Passing orders on papers relating to the restoration of Teroomala Naik's Palace at Madura.

No. 24 Jany 12th 72

In Finl 56/72

Diagram of Tiroomal Naik's Palace. Madura.

Vakeels below. Records above. H

Civil and Sessions Judge's Court room. H

Judges Private rooms I

Vakeels and Records above. H

North of the Circular Hall
Judge's Clerks.
F F

F
Judge's Clerks.

Sub Magistrates Court. B

C1
District Munsiff's Court.

Talook Cutcherry.

B

Municipal J

Municipal Office J

J

Vacant for a waiting Hall.

Records G

Registration

Assistant. G

Treasury. G

Collectors Private Room. Restored. G

Entrance.

E
Circular Hall
Great Dome
Public place as appropriated.

Collectors Clerks. F

Restored
F
Collectors Clerks.

F

South of the Circular Hall

Vestibule with Wagon Vaults Restored D

K Restored Facade.

OPEN COURT YARD.
A

Entrance.

Vacant for a waiting Hall.

B

Forest B

Public Works Dept. C2

Public Works Stores.

Road.

L L
Native Houses to be bought at once.

Racket Court.

Road

Road

Drawn by T. E. Dent and Lith by R. J. Baldrey.

Govt. Lith. Press Fort St. George, Madras. Dec. 1871.

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MARDAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~. Proceedings of Govt. Public Works Department, dated 11th January 1872, No. 69.

Order thereon 24 Jany 72 No 82

With reference to para XXI of the President's Minute recorded in the above Proceedings the Govt. direct the Acting Collector of Madura to take the necessary steps for selling to the best advantage the building in which the Collector and his establishment are now accommodated.

2. The Acting Collector will if possible make it a condition of sale that

the

the Govt. shall have the right to remain as tenants in the building at an appropriate rent, for a period not exceeding two years from the date of sale.

3. The price obtained will be carried to account of the restoration of the palace, particularly for the purpose of completing the quarters destined for the Collector and Judge.

To,
The Acting Collector of Trincomalee
with Public Works Nos 10 & 11
Revenue Department.
dup 30/1 Accountant General.
Pub Works Department

60/- Rupees 80

24-246.B.D
7-9-16 KLV

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To

The Collr. of Chingleput

Dated Jany. 24 } 1872, No. 82.
Recd. }

Nos. 95. 96.

Directing the Collector of Chingleput to sell the building in which he holds his Court and to carry the proceeds to account of the restoration of the Ceremonial Tanks as soon particularly for completion of the Quarters intended for the Collr & Judge.