

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	49	Press
61-62		Mis.
Dated	15.1.1863	19.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

49

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th January 1863.*

No. 61. Read the following Despatch in the Public Department, from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated London, 25th November 1862, No. 41.

Public.

Para. 1. I have considered in Council your Judicial letter dated 5th August, (No. 9), 1862, setting forth the arrangements which you think best suited for the accommodation of the New High Court of Madras, and in connection therewith, proposing certain changes in the allocation of other Public Departments at your Presidency.

2. The various arrangements proposed by you are based on the occupation of the Government House by the High Court; and, as I retain the objections stated in my previous Despatches to the diversion of the Government House from its proper purpose, it will be necessary that you should frame some other plan for the accommodation of the High Court.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1863, No. 49.

On the 5th August last His Excellency the Governor in Council applied to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for permission to convert the Government House at Madras, which is at present occupied as the office of the Board of Revenue, into a Court House for the High Court. In the Despatch above recorded, the Secretary of State has declined to sanction the proposal, and has directed that some other arrangement should be made for the accommodation of the High Court.

2. Neither of the buildings in which the two branches of the High Court are at present held, are well suited for the purpose: The Ameer Bagh is too small and is too remote from the most populous parts of Madras. In the building on the Beach there is ample accommodation for both branches of the Court, but its position is in some respects objectionable. On three sides it is closely hemmed in by other buildings. On the fourth there is a public thoroughfare altogether devoid of shade and containing no convenient resting places for persons who may have occasion to wait outside the Court, until their legal advisers can see them, or until their cases come on for hearing. There is a great deficiency of good water both here and in all parts of Black Town, and the site is very remote from the suburbs in which Natives from the Provinces having business in Madras, usually reside. Moreover the noise of the surf is at times a serious inconvenience.

3. Under these circumstances, the Governor in Council is of opinion that arrangements should be made, as soon as possible, for the erection of a suitable Court House in a more convenient site. He considers the extensive grounds at Chepauk well adapted for the purpose. Here there is ample space for extensive buildings. It is not too remote from Black Town, is in close proximity to the populous quarter of Triplicane, and within a moderate distance of the suburbs of Mylapore and Vepery. The Court House may be so placed as to have the benefit of the Sea breeze, and at the same time sufficiently distant from the Beach to prevent any inconvenience from the noise of the surf. There are tanks in the grounds and wells in the immediate neighbourhood.

4. But the erection of such a building as will be requisite must necessarily take a considerable time, and it is not desirable that the present arrangement under which the two branches of the Court are placed in buildings several miles distant from each other, should be any longer continued. In the late Supreme Court House there is, as has been already remarked, ample space for both branches of the Court, and the inconvenience which in some respects attaches to that building with reference to its position cannot be considered to outweigh the great advantage of having the entire Court located in a single building, during the lengthened period that must elapse before a New Court House can be erected.

5. His Excellency in Council accordingly resolves to request that the Honorable the Judges will take steps, with as little delay as possible, for the transfer of the Appellate side of the Court and its establishment to the late Supreme Court House, making such a re-distribution

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th January 1863.*

of the available accommodation in that building as the arrangement may render necessary. It is not desirable and probably it will not be requisite that the Court of Small Causes or the Town Police Office which are both held in parts of the same range of building should be disturbed.

6. On reference to the plan of the Court House, it appears that no less than seven rooms are assigned to the Chief Justice and Puisne Judges of the late Supreme Court, whereas a single room for each Judge is all that can be required. The accommodation assigned to the Registrar and Prothonotary, the Master and the Clerk of the Crown, and the Government Solicitor also, appears to be unnecessarily large. Two rooms are occupied by the Sealer and two by the Coroner. The first of these offices will shortly be abolished, and as regards the second, there is no apparent reason why the Coroner should be furnished with an office in the High Court. The building at the back of the Court House hitherto used as a Bonded ware-house will probably accommodate the records and a portion of the Ministerial establishment. On the whole, the Governor in Council has no doubt that by a judicious distribution of the available space, the Honorable the Judges will have little or no difficulty in making adequate provision for the entire Court, and he requests that the subject may receive their early consideration.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMeury.

Jud. Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following
Despatch from the Right
Honorable the Secretary
of State for India.*

*Here enter 25th November 1862
of 1862*

Order thereon 15th January 1863 No. 49

*On the 5th August
last His Excellency the
Governor in Council ap-
plied to the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State for per-
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[Handwritten initials and signatures]

the Secretary of State has declined to sanction the proposal, and has directed that some other arrangement should be made for the accommodation of the High Court.

2 Neither of the buildings in which the two branches of the High Court are at present held, are well suited for the purpose. The Lower Bagh is too small and is too remote from the most populous parts of Madras. In the building on the Beach there is ample accommodation for both branches of the Court, but its position in some respects is objectionable. On three sides it is closely hemmed in by other buildings. On the fourth there is a public thoroughfare altogether devoid of shade and

and containing no convenient resting places for persons who may have occasion to wait outside the Court, until their legal advisers can see them, or until their cases come on for hearing. There is a great deficiency of good water both here and in all parts of Black Town, and the site is very remote from the suburbs in which natives from the Provinces having business in Madras, usually reside. Moreover the noise of the surf is at times a serious inconvenience.

3 Under these circumstances, the Governor in Council is of opinion that arrangements should be made, as soon as possible, for the erection of a suitable Court house in a more convenient site. He considers the extensive grounds at Chepauk well adapted for the purpose. Here there is

is ample space for extensive buildings. It is not too remote from Black Town, is in close proximity to the populous quarters of Fiskiers, and within a moderate distance of the suburbs of Mylapore and Vepery. The Court House may be so placed as to have the benefit of the sea breeze, and at the same time sufficiently distant from the Beach to prevent any inconvenience from the noise of the surf. There are tanks in the grounds and wells in the immediate neighbourhood.

4. But the erection of such a building as will be requisite must necessarily take a considerable time, and it is not desirable that the present arrangement under which the two branches of the Court are placed in buildings

several miles distant from each other, should be any longer continued. In the late Supreme Court House there is, as has been already remarked, ample space for both branches of the Court, and the inconvenience which in some respects attaches to that building with reference to its position cannot be considered to outweigh the great advantage of having the entire Court located in a single building, during the lengthened period that must elapse before a new Court House can be erected.

5. His Excellency in Council accordingly resolves ~~and~~ request that the Honble the Judges will take steps, ^{as possible} with as little delay, for the transfer of the appellate side of the Court and its establishment to the late Supreme

Supreme Court House, making
such a redistribution of the
available accommodation
in that building as the arrange-
ment may render necessary.
It is not decidable and pro-
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that the Court of Small Causes
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Registrar and Prothonotary,
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and two by the coroner. The
first of these Offices will shortly
be abolished, and as regards
the second, there is no apparent
reason why ~~it~~ ^{the coroner} should be
furnished with an Office in
the High Court. The building
at the back of the Court House
hitherto used as a Bonded
warehouse will probably
accommodate the records and
a portion of the ministerial Estab-
lishment. On the whole, the
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space, the Honble the Judges
will have little or no difficulty
in making adequate provision
for the entire Court, and he
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receive their early consideration.

W. R.

To the Honorable the Judges of the High Court.
Sept. 15

1863
1863. Department.

No. 479

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

*June 18. 1863. 27.
Obituary 20-7 of 1863.*

Dated 15. 1863.

*entire arrangement
suggested to the Honorable
the Judges for the temple,
very accommodation of
the hall branches of the
Court into one building
pending the erection of
a suitable Court House
in a more convenient
site.*