

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT.

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| G.O. No. 1687 | <u>Press</u><br><u>Mis.</u> |
| 3/3-3/4       | Dated 24-10-1886            |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,  
24th October 1866.*

No. 313. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works  
Department, dated 16th October 1866, No. 3302.  
Calling for an estimate for improving the } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works De-  
District Moonsiff's Court-house at } partment, dated 16th October 1866,  
Oosoor, in the Salem District. } Nos. 384 & 385.)

No. 314. ORDER THEREON, 24th October 1866, No. 1687.  
Communicated to the Civil Judge of Salem.  
(Signed) J. D. SIM,  
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Civil Judge of Salem.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
16th October 1866.*

No. 384. Read the following letter from the Civil Judge of Salem, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Salem, 25th September 1866, No. 7:—

I have the honor to enclose, for the information of Government, copies of replies made by the Superintending Engineer and Sub-Collector to letters which I addressed to them respecting the subject of your docket,\* dated the 2nd ultimo.

\* Herewith returned.

Both these Officers appear to think that the present Court House of the District, Moonsiff at Oossoor is conveniently situated. The Superintending Engineer considers that the building is capable of improvement, while the Sub-Collector is of opinion that alterations or additions to it would be waste of money. On this point more weight will probably be attached to the opinion of the Superintending Engineer; but if the improvements he has in view should be extensive and costly, the Government may think it worth their consideration whether it would not be the least expense in the end to take down the present building and erect a new one on the same site.

From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Under Secretary to Government, Public &c, Departments, dated Cuddalore, 26th June 1866, No. 53.

- 1 Letter No. — dated 19th December 1864, with two Enclosures.
- 1 Copy of Proceedings of the High Court, and
- 1 Copy of letter No. 30, dated 18th August 1864, to the High Court, from the Civil Judge, Salem.
- 1 Letter No. 272, dated 27th September 1865, from do. do.

1. In reply to your Official Memorandum of the 21st instant, No. 203, I have the honor to state that the estimate and plan, submitted with my letter of the 6th instant, No. 33, for constructing a District Moonsiff's Court House at Oossoor, were prepared on the requisition of the High Court and the Civil Judge of Salem.

2. I herewith forward, in original, the requisitions, and request you will be good enough to return them to me when no longer required.

From the Acting Civil Judge of Salem, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, dated Salem, 19th December 1864.

\* Dated 18th August 1864.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter\* addressed by Mr. Cherry to the Registrar

of the High Court, with the Proceedings of the Judges thereon, and to request that you will favor me with your opinion on the subject of building new Court Houses for the District Moonsiffs at Tripatore and Oossoor. In the event of your coinciding with Mr. Cherry's view of the case, I have further to request that the necessary plans and estimates may be prepared with as little delay as possible.

From the Civil Judge of Salem, to the Deputy Registrar of the High Court, Appellate Side, Madras dated Salem, 18th August 1864. No. 30.

1. In reply to the High Court's Proceedings of the 15th instant, directing me to state distinctly the steps I propose to take in the matter of providing the District Moonsiffs of Tripatore and Oossoor with better accommodation for holding their Courts, I have the honor to observe that from the descriptions given of the present buildings by the said Officers in their respective letters of the 5th February and 29th June 1864, (copies of which were duly submitted to the High Court with my letters of the 11th February and 9th July 1864), I do not think that these buildings, even after improvement, would sufficiently answer, and that it would be cheaper in the end and better for the public convenience if new buildings were erected.

2. If the High Court concur in this opinion, I shall then do myself the honor of submitting plans and estimates for the same.

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Proceedings of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, 16th December 1861.

Read letter dated the 18th August 1864, from the Civil Judge of Salem, stating that the present Court Houses of the District Moonsiffs of Tripatore and Oosoor, even if improved, would not sufficiently answer, and that the erection of new buildings would be cheaper and also better for public convenience.

The High Court are of opinion that the local Engineer should be consulted as to the relative expediency of the two plans suggested. If the Acting Civil Judge and the Engineer agree that it will be more economical to construct entirely new Court Houses, the plans and estimates may be prepared at once, and forwarded for sanction in the usual course.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,  
Acting Registrar, Appellate Side.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. E. SULLIVAN,  
Acting Civil Judge.

From the Acting Civil Judge of Salem, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, dated Salem, 27th September 1865, No. 272.

1. I delayed replying to your letter dated 9th ultimo, No. 1,101, until I had had an opportunity of inspecting the Moonsiffs' Courts at Tripatore and Oosoor.

2. I fully concur with yourself and the Assistant Engineer in thinking that alterations or additions to the present Court of Tripatore would be waste of money; another building in a different locality must be provided. I am now in correspondence with the Collector on the subject, and will again address you when I am in possession of his views.

3. I hold the same opinion with regard to the Moonsiff's Court at Oosoor. The cubic space available in the Court room is even less than in the Tripatore Court, and moreover the locality, which does not even possess the advantage of being central, is decidedly objectionable. It is impossible for the business of a Court to be carried on when the doors open almost on to a crowded street. I have therefore the honor to request that plans and estimates for a new building to be erected in the vicinity of the Taluq School may be submitted as early as practicable. I presume that there are standard plans in your office for judicial buildings, so that I need not indicate the accommodation required.

No. 6.

**OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.**

The Civil Judge of Salem has the honor to state, in reply to the Official Memorandum of the Under Secretary to Government, dated the 3rd instant, that the District Moonsiff's Court at Oosoor was personally inspected by the late Acting Civil Judge, who concurred with the Superintending and Assistant Engineers that "alterations or additions to the building would be waste of money." He also remarks "that the locality, which does not even possess the advantage of being central, is decidedly objectionable, and that it is impossible for the business to be carried on when the doors open almost on to a crowded street."

(Signed) C. F. CHAMIER,  
Civil Judge.

SALEM,  
9th July 1866.

The Civil Judge is requested to report fully whether the building now used as the Moonsiff's Court is Government property; how long it has been so occupied; whether, irrespective of its situation in a crowded locality, it is in any, and what, respects unsuited to its present purpose; and whether, in the event of its being abandoned, it can be applied to any other public purpose,

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16th October 1866.*

or, if sold, what it is likely to realize. A description of the situation and dimensions of the building should also be furnished, and the necessity of erecting a new Court House clearly explained.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
2nd August 1866.

From the Acting Sub-Collector of Salem, to the Civil Judge of Salem, dated Oosoor, 13th September 1866, No. 504.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 29, dated 21st August 1866, I have the honor to inform you, that I have inspected the Court of the District Moonsiff of Oosoor, and to reply, as far as lies in my power, to the questions put by the Chief Secretary to Government, in the enclosure which accompanied your letter under reply.

2. I quite agree with the remarks of the Superintending Engineer and Assistant Engineer, viz., "that making alterations or additions would be waste of money." I do not coincide with the opinion expressed by the Acting Civil Judge, relative to the position of the Court. The street in which it is situated is anything but crowded, being that in which mostly Brahmins and Government officials reside.

3. The building is the property of Government, by whom it was built in the year 1841, as a Moonsiff's Court, so that it has been so occupied for about twenty-six years. It is, as I have remarked, not in a crowded locality. The main thoroughfare of the town (Trunk Road No. 1) runs at an angle to it, and at some distance. It is, in my opinion, unsuited to the purpose for which it is used. It is situated in a compound 131 feet long by 79 feet deep. The building consists of the Court, which is 41 feet 6 inches long, 11 feet 8 inches wide, and 11 feet high. In this room nine Goomastahs, and four constables have to work, and the business of the Court has to be carried on there also. The part of the room set apart for the Goomastahs is 18 feet 2 inches long, and separated from the Court by one ordinary rail, about 2 feet 6 inches high. At the back of the Court, and in the centre, there is the Record-room, in which property possessing any value attached under decrees is deposited. This room is 10 feet 2 inches x 10 feet 2 inches, and about 10 feet high. There is no private room for the Moonsiff, who has to do his work as best he can in the same room as his Clerks. Outside the Court is a verandah eight feet deep, and opening into it by a series of arches, so that any one outside can see what is going on within. Outside the main building, and about 15 yards east of it, there is what is called the Vakil's shed, which is 17 feet x 10 x 11 x 10, and has a sloping verandah eight feet deep, opening on to the shed by arches. Of this shed and forming part of the same structure is a small room 11-8 x 5-2 x 10, and very dirty, in which such attached property as cannot be put in the Record-room is placed. There is a deep dry well in the compound, which is further blocked up by a pound for attached cattle. Near this is a dung heap, which I think is not conducive to the health of either the employes or frequenters of the Court. There is no accommodation of any kind for suitors. The compound is surrounded by a 6 feet wall.

4. There is no public purpose to which the building could, if abandoned, be put. The School is located in a building which is more suitable; and, if a Dispensary were instituted, very considerable alterations would be required.

5. If sold, the building and land together would not realize at the very outside more than 350 Rupees. I was told that an offer of 200 Rupees had once been made for it, but the Moonsiff informed me that there was nothing on record regarding this.

6. The Court is situated at the eastern extremity of the town near the point where Trunk Road No. 1 enters. To the east of it, and separated from it by a wall, is the School; to the west there is a private house, on the south it is bounded by a cultivated field, and to the north runs the Brahmins' street. I enclose a rough sketch, which will enable you to better understand the description given.

7. The Court House is "cutcha," i. e., built of brick and mud. The bricks are, as far as I could see, by removing plaster, those known as Company's bricks, and appear to be of good quality.

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16th October 1866.

Very many of the beams supporting the roof are attacked with dry rot, and by the time that the proposed alterations are, if sanctioned, made, it will be necessary to extensively repair the old structure.

8. My opinion, therefore, is that the building should be pulled down, and a proper one erected. The brick not being set in chunam might be used again, as well as such timber and tiles as are in good condition. There is no other site in the town on which a Court could be built without rendering it necessary to purchase the ground, and I can myself see no objection beyond want of centrality to that on which the present building is. The site to which I hear that it is proposed to remove it, is even more distant from the town than this.

From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Civil Judge of Salem, dated Salem, 19th September 1866, No. 137.

1. With reference to your letters of the 21st August, No. 114, and 27th of August, No. 121, I have the honor to inform you that I inspected the Moonsiff's Court House at Oosoor on the 7th and 8th of this month.

2. I did not see this building when at Oosoor last year, and did not forward any report on it. I am now of opinion that it will not be necessary to build a new Court House, as the present building is conveniently situated and improvements can be made to it. It is at one end of the town, stands back from the street, and behind it there is a field.

3. I had no hesitation in condemning the Moonsiff's Court House at Tripatore, and Government have ordered provision to be made in the Budget of 1867-68 for a new Court House to be built in the compound of what was the Travellers' Bungalow, now the Head Assistant Collector's Office.

4. As I have given an opinion in favor of retaining the present building at Oosoor, it will not be necessary for me to send replies to the other questions, particularly as the Sub-Collector informed me that replies had also been called for from him.

Transferred to the Public Works Department, with reference to the docket of that Department, dated 12th June last. As the Superintending Engineer is now of opinion that it is not necessary to erect a New Court House for the District Moonsiff at Oosoor, the necessary estimate should be called for for improving the present building.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,  
*Secretary to Government.*

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
4th October 1866.

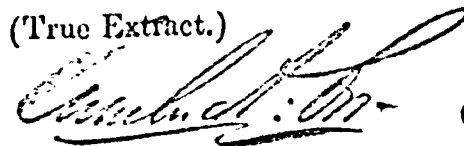
No. 385. ORDER THEREON, 16th October 1866, No. 3,302.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 76.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, who will submit an estimate for the proposed

improvements to the District Moonsiff's Court House at Oosoor in the Salem District.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,  
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.  
.. Judicial Department.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

Feb 2 1866

DEPT.

Proceedings of Government in the  
P. Work. Department.  
No. 3302

Dated 16  
Received 16 October 1866

No. 2310

Calling for an estimate  
for improving the D.C.  
Morrison Court house  
at Ocoron in the Salem  
District.

With an Order

1792  
see file 1034/6

Feb 30 1866

So to mail  
Judge  
of Salem } 1866

No 1087-24 1866  
to communicate to the  
Judge of Salem

(Handwritten signature/initials)

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