

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	681	Press ~~Mis.~~
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd May 1866.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 47. From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works; dated Coimbatore, 9th January 1866, No. 229.

I have the honor to submit the Report of the Jail Committee at Ootacamund, with two sketch plans, shewing the existing accommodation and that proposed to be given. Having lately had an opportunity

Enclosures 3.

of going over the building with the Judge and Executive Engineer, I have to state my concurrence in their proposals; suggesting, however, that the guard-room be outside the entrance, the new cook-rooms detached from the boundary walls, and that a proportion of the Ward and Hospital accommodation be reserved for women.

2. The information communicated as to actual amount of accommodation required by Civil Prisoners renders it unnecessary for me to submit the revised estimate of Civil Jail, called for in G. O., No. 853, of 28th March 1865; more especially as the same is nearly 50 per cent. in excess of that originally sent in, without any adequate reason that I have been informed of. Its final revision had better be embodied in the estimate to be prepared on receipt of the orders of Government on the Committee's Report.

Proceedings of a Committee held at the Ootacamund Jail, on the 4th August 1865, agreeably to paragraphs 5 and 6 of G. O., No. 877, dated 16th June 1865.

President.

A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Session Judge.

Members.

Major W. T. FREKE FAREWELL, Executive Engineer.

JOHN MILLER, Esq., M. D., Senior Medical Officer.

The Committee having assembled proceeded to examine the wards of the Native Jail, a sketch plan of which accompanies these Proceedings; the measurements of the various rooms and wards, as lettered in the sketch plan, are as follow, shewing the number of superficial and cubic feet :—

Letter of room.	How occupied at present.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Superficial area.	Cubic contents.
A.	Prisoners' ward...	40	8	10	320	3,200
B.	Do.	15	8	10	120	1,200
C.	Do.	40	8	10	320	3,200
D.	Privy...	15	8	10	120	1,200
E.	Office...	15	18	18	270	4,860
F.	Prisoners' ward...	23	18	18	414	7,452
G.	Do.	15	18	18	270	4,860
H.	Do.	40	18	18	720	12,960
I.	Sick ward...	15	18	18	270	4,860
J.	Raggy-grinding room...	15	18	10	270	2,700
K.	Covered verandah...	65	8	10	520	5,200
L.	Surgery...	32	8	10	256	2,560

2. The rooms F, G, H, and the enclosed verandahs A, B, C, are at present used as wards, and contain 82 prisoners; the room I is used as a Hospital; the verandah room D as a privy for the sick; the verandah room L as a surgery; the verandah room K is simply used as a passage; the verandah room J as a raggy-grinding room; and the room E as an office.

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3. The room now used as a Hospital is too small for the purpose, the arrangement for the privy is bad, and the surgery is too small.

4. The Committee are of opinion that it is necessary that a separate building be constructed for hospital purposes to accommodate 30 prisoners, as it must be borne in mind that this Hospital will have to receive all serious cases of sickness amongst the prisoners employed in the working gang under Mr. Melvor, Superintendent, Chinchona Plantations, as well as accommodate the sick of the Jail. The present raggy-grinding store may conveniently be retained for use as at present.

5. The building No. 4, containing two rooms, one for the Police Guard, and the other for the warders, is not repairable, being a mud-walled structure, the walls of which are leaning outwards in all directions.

6. The building opposite the Jail wards, marked 2, contains five store-rooms, and one room used as a female ward and, occasionally, as a debtors' ward, and a small "lean to" marked D, used as a cook-room; this building is of so unsubstantial a nature, that the Committee are of opinion that it should be pulled down altogether, and the space required for stores provided elsewhere; the shed marked No. 3, behind this building, used as a fuel store, is a good substantial shed, a portion of which could easily be partitioned off for store-rooms.

7. The work-shed (a prolongation of the fuel shed) well answers the purpose for which it is required.

8. The cook-rooms marked B, are unfit to be used as such; these can be converted into fuel stores.

9. The building No. 5 is now not used; its dimensions are such as to prevent its being utilized for any purpose; it should therefore be removed.

10. The privy is situated outside the Jail enclosure, and is altogether unsuited for the purpose; it is a small building which cannot be altered for the present earth-sewage system.

11. The Committee beg to offer the following suggestions for improving the Jail:—

I.—That the large rooms G, H, I, J, K, in the main building No. 1, and the enclosed verandah in rear of these be used as wards, that, in a climate like that of the Neilgherries, 500 cubic feet per man being sufficient, these wards will give ample space for 84 prisoners (including two in solitary cells) to be allotted as follows:—

Letter of room.	How proposed to be occupied.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Superficial area.	Cubic contents.	Number of prisoners.	Remarks.
A.A.	Solitary cells.	13	8	8	104	832	2	1 in each.
B.	Prisoners' ward.	40	8	10	320	3,200	6	
C.	Do.	15	8	10	120	1,200	2	
D.	Do.	40	8	10	320	3,200	6	
E.	Do.	15	8	10	120	1,200	2	
F.	Office.	18	10	8	234	1,872		
G.	Prisoners' ward.	15	18	18	270	4,860	9	
H.	Do.	23	18	18	414	7,452	14	
I.	Do.	15	18	18	270	4,860	9	
J.	Do.	40	18	18	720	12,960	25	
K.	Do.	15	18	18	270	4,860	9	
L.	Raggy-grinding store.	15	8	10	120	1,200		
M.	Enclosed verandah.	65	8	10	520	5,200		Passage.
N.	Warders' guard-room.	32	8	10	256	2,560		

II.—That ventilating holes be cut in the basement of the building so as to allow of a current of fresh air passing below the floors.

III.—That each prisoner's ward be provided with simple ridge ventilators, the enclosed verandah rooms in the rear of the building being ventilated by square ventilation holes cut in the masonry between the joists guarded with a small iron grating, and these rooms be boarded.

IV.—That the enclosed verandah in front be used as at present as a passage.

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V.—That the present surgery be fitted with a fire place and used as warders' guard room.

VI.—That a separate building, as per sketch plan, be built in a new enclosure to the south and adjacent to the present Jail yard for a Hospital, as shewn in the general plan 2.

VII.—That a new privy, and urinals of the latest approved pattern for the dry-earth system, provided with seats for ten men, be built at the point shewn in the plan No. 2.

VIII.—That a new guard-room be built at the entrance gate of the Jail for the accommodation of the Police guard, as shewn in the plan No. 2.

IX.—That a new cook-room be built, of the dimensions noted in the plan No. 2, at the point thereon indicated.

X.—That two solitary cells be added to the main building, the space between them being covered in for use as an office, as shewn in plan No. 2.

XI.—That the present cook-rooms be converted into fuel stores.

XII.—That the whole of the tumble-down and useless buildings, marked 2, 4 and 5 in plan No. 1, should be pulled down, and thus afford more space in the Jail square.

XIII.—That three good store-rooms be made in the shed No. 3, plans 1 and 2, the floors to be boarded with the old boards now in the building in front of it, which it is recommended should be removed.

XIV.—That four sub-soil drains be constructed so as to lead off from each angle of the building to the surface of the earth outside the Jail enclosure, the drains being dug 3 feet by 2 feet, filled in loosely with stones and useless brick bats to a depth of 2 feet, a thin layer of brushwood laid over them, and filled in with well-tamped earth.

XV.—That rain-water drains of bricks and chunnam be constructed all round the building and continued to outside of the enclosure, discharging at the two ends of the building.

XVI.—That a Jailer's house, of the same dimensions as the quarters already built for the Head Warder of the European Jail, be constructed; an estimate has been sanctioned for the work, but no funds provided for its construction.

G. O., No. 1736, dated 15th June 1864.

XVII.—That quarters for nine Native Warders of brick and mud with tiled roofs, each measuring 8 by 10, be built for their accommodation.

12. The Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, having forwarded a plan of a Civil Jail proposed to be built adjacent to the present Jail, prepared as per G. O., No. 853, dated 28th March 1865, the President expressed his opinion, that the number of prisoners it provides to hold is far greater than the wants of the station demand; the plan before the Committee, now herewith returned, gives sufficient cubical and square feet of area for ten European male and four European female prisoners, besides accommodation for 17 Native male and 8 Native female prisoners; the President pointed out to the Committee, that accommodation for six Native male and three female prisoners and four European male and two female prisoners is ample; the Committee therefore recommend that the plan for a Civil Jail be revised to meet only the requirements above mentioned.

13. The Committee are of opinion that all the additional buildings should be built of brick and mud plastered with mortar outside, the rooms should be floored with jungle-wood planks, and the roofs covered with bamboo reapers, mats and common pan-tiles, excepting the office and cells, which should be of brick in chunnam with a terraced roof.

14. The Jail garden is now worked by convalescent prisoners; the President proposes to employ a gang of prisoners to construct a mud wall and plant a hedge round it, which the Committee recommend to be adopted, instead of building a permanent wall, which would cost much.

15. The Committee do not forward any plans and estimates pending the approval of the changes proposed.

16. The Committee request that the sketch plans herewith forwarded be returned, as no copies thereof have been taken.

(Signed) A. W. PHILLIPS,

Session Judge.

(") J. MILLER, M.D.,
Senior Medical Officer, Neilgherries.

(") W. FAREWELL, Major,
Executive Engineer.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd May 1866.*

Referred to the Judicial Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Col., R. E.,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, Secretary to Government, P. W. D.
16th January 1866.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails, for his remarks.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) C. G. WALKER,
22nd January 1866, Under Secretary.

No. 48. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 29th March 1866, No. 955.

I have the honor to return the Report of the Committee upon the Native Jail at Ootacamund, together with the plans and the letter of the Superintending Engineer, referred to this Department for remark, on the 22nd January last; and to state that, while concurring generally in the proposals of the Committee as modified by Colonel Walker, there are one or two alterations which I would recommend.

2. In paragraph 10 of their Report, the Committee propose to add two solitary cells, and to cover in the space between them for an office. Under the law now in force, cells of this description are used not only as a means of punishment for Jail offences of a serious description, but also in order to carry out the sentences of criminal tribunals, for which reason I beg to suggest that two additional cells be constructed in the space named for the office, provision for which might be made by adding to the guard-room.

3. In paragraph 3 it is proposed to have seats for the privy, but I should prefer a small latrine on the Bangalore plan, with a long trough for earth running down the centre, and trenches on each side. The spot chosen may, possibly, be considered too near the gate, and I should have been inclined to have the latrine outside altogether, were it not for the extra expense of the outer walls which would be required in that case. As it is, the very fact of the proximity to the gate of the spot selected is likely to ensure cleanliness.

4. The entrance gate is old and useless, and ought to be replaced.

No. 49. ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1866, No. 681.

The suggestions made by the Inspector General of Jails are approved.

2. The necessary orders will be issued in the Department of Public Works.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with two plans.

„ Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. Wright.

File 111.
Pro. 28th June 1864 No. 257-258.
„ 16th July „ „ 186 „ 190.
„ 27th March 1865 „ „ 179-180.
„ 3rd May „ „ 37-38.

Judicial
From
The Insp. Genl. of Jails
Madras.
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George.

Dated 29th March 1866.
Recd. 30th

No. 692
1865.

Enclosures two.

Return the report of the
Committee upon the Native
Jail at Ootacamund.

With an order.

26th Apr
23 May
47049

File 111
307/65

From the Supy Engr. & Dr. thro' } 9th Jan'y /66 Lt. 229. 4
the Pub. Works Dept. }
Insp. Genl. of jails — 29th March /66 No 953.

Order. 3rd May 1866 H: 681.

The suggestions made by the
Inspector General of jails are ap-
proved.

The necessary orders will
be issued in the Department of
Public Works.

To the Pub. Works Dept. — with 2 plans }
— Insp. Genl. of jails. — } dep 9/5