

1898.
Local & Munl. (190-) Depart

Miscellaneous
ROUTINE.

G.O., No. 707 M

DATED 2-4-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Burial ground

Stating that the site
for the proposed Muhammadan
in the Chidambaram Municipality
has been badly chosen and that
until a better site can be found
no change need be made.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

*Closure of Muhammadan
burial grounds. Chidambaram*

Local and Municipal Department

cl.ount

water

*Civ 3317-16 9 229 9
1045m*

FOR ORDERS.

and

In his inspection notes on the

Chidambaram municipality, recorded in G.O. No. 1915 M dated 18th November 1892, the Sanitary Commissioner recommended the closure of the one Muhammadan burial ground in the centre of the town, and again in the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes recorded in G.O. No. 285 M dated 9th March 1894 he stated that though the Nawab Mosque burial ground, which it ~~was~~ ^{had been} proposed to close, was clearly little used, it was closely surrounded by houses and that the burial of bodies in it was objectionable on sanitary grounds.

2. In August 1894, the Chairman of the Municipal Council forwarded a copy of the resolution of the Council stating that the site selected for the Muhammadan burial ground ~~will~~ ^{would} be taken possession of and that the necessary arrangements made to render it fit for the purpose and that the Government ~~will~~ ^{would} be addressed on the matter of closing the present burial grounds in the heart of the town. On this, the Government in its order No. 1286 M dated 18th September 1894 stated that it was not prepared to sanction the closing

Flag. B.

*Order No 707 ⁱⁿ 2/4/98
Flag. C.*

*The fact considers that
the site for the proposed
Muhammadan burial ground
has been badly chosen;
that under a better site
can be found*

*vide Chairman's letter 1286 M
18-9-94*

*No change need
be made.*

31 3 98

To

*The Chairman, M.C. Chidambaram
Collector of S. Arcot
Sanitary Commissioner
Sup. 5/4/98*

sure of the burial grounds in question
thout more complete information on the
subject and called for further report after
the persons who ^a ~~will~~ be affected by the
measure ^{had} ~~have~~ been given an opportunity of
stating their case. A map showing the site
of the burial grounds to be closed and the
position of the new burial ground to be
opened instead was also required to be
sent and the Collector was requested to
give his opinion upon the Council's proposals
when forwarding them. The Council was further
asked to explain why it proposed to close
more than one burial ground in the heart of
the town, while the Sanitary Officers recom-
mended the closure of only one such ground.

3. In forwarding the Council's further
report on the subject, the Collector stated
that it should be first ascertained which
burial ground is desired by the Sanitary
Commissioner to be closed, as there are six
Muhammadan burial grounds in the town, all
of which appeared equally objectionable to
the sanitary mind and he suggested that the
Muhammadans should be approached in a sym-
pathetic spirit, and thought that there
would be no difficulty in arriving at a
satisfactory settlement in the matter if
their head-men are approached dexterously.

4. The ^{papers} were then forwarded to the Sanitary
Commissioner and he was requested to in-
spect the town and submit, at an early date,
definite recommendations as to the closure
of the burial grounds. The Sanitary Commis-
sioner, after carefully examining the margi-
nally noted burial grounds, came to the con-
clusion that their continued use would be

inimical

- 7.
- (1) The Lal Khan Musjid grave yard.
 - (2) The public grave yard in the immediate vicinity of No. 1.
 - (3) Asaf Sherif's grave yard.
 - (4) Khadir Khan's grave yard.
 - (5) The Makhan of Michur Sahib
 - (6) Nawab Musjid grave yard.

inimical to the public health on account
of their proximity to dwellings and water
supplies and he therefore advised that
they should be closed. As regards the
new grave yard selected by the Council,
he thought it advisable to secure the
slightly higher ground on the opposite
side of the road in the same vicinity and
to abolish the group of huts found there.
On this the Government directed the Col-
lector to take early steps in consulta-
tion with the Muhammadan community and
the Chairman of the Municipal Council for
the selection of a new site for a burial
ground to take the place of the cemeteries
within the municipality, which should be
thereupon closed, and to report the result
to Government. The Collector's attention
was also drawn to the site suggested by
the Sanitary Commissioner.

5. In his letter read above, the Col-
lector approves the site recommended by
the Sanitary Commissioner, but states that
as the local Muhammadan sentiment is dead
against the closure of the burial grounds
in question, it seems better to meet the
wishes of the people primarily interested
in the matter half way or more than half
way. He says that as the number of deaths
among Muhammadans in the town is only 3
per mensem, it might be possible to re-
quire interments to be made at a certain
fixed minimum depth and thus reduce to a
minimum the liability of public health
suffering from the continued use of these
burial grounds, as feared by the Sanitary

Commissioner

Commissioner. The Collector thinks that the time has not yet come when it will be absolutely necessary to close all the burial grounds in Chidambaram.

V.R.
26/10/77

Put up a complete map of the City - showing the graveyards. J.R.
27/10/77

A complete map of the Municipality showing the grave yards is not available in the office. The accompanying draft memo. asking the Collector to send one is submitted for approval.

V.R.
28/10/77

A complete map of the Municipality showing the grave yards received with the Collector's second letter read above is now put up. Flag H.

Return Memo to Comr. asking to note on it proposed Site; also the Hindu burial ground which seems to be near it with road to both.

V.R.
11/1/78
I cannot make out from the new plan where the proposed site is. J.R.
22.9.8.

Flag J
The Collr has now marked on the plan the sites and roads referred to by the Secretary. V.R. 23/3/78

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1045M

From

The Collector of
South Arcot.

No. Ref on 76 of 98

Dated 12. March 98

Received 14.3.98.

Registered

Enclosures one plan

Spare copies

DESPATCHED
12 MAR. 98.

SUBJECT.

Retransmits the plan
of the Chidambaram
Municipality return-
ed with G.O. Memo. 152.
P.O. 98.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

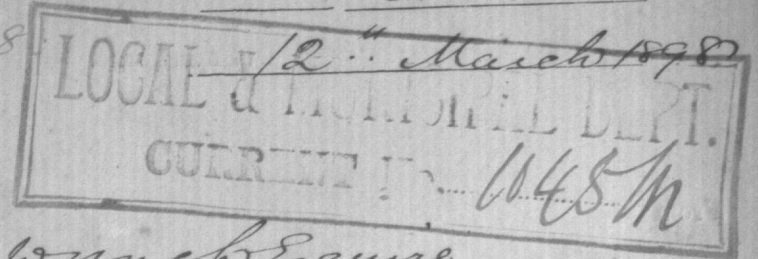
FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

SOUTH ARCOT.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

NO. *Ref No 76*
N.S. 398



FROM

L. M. Wynne Esquire

COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ARCOT.

TO

THE ~~CHIEF~~ SECRETARY,

TO GOVERNMENT

L. M. Wynne DEPARTMENT.

MADRAS.

SIR,

I have the honour to resubmit
herewith the plan of the Chidambra
- ram Municipality returned with
G. O. Memorandum N^o. 153 dated
8th Feby 1858 from the under Secre-
- tary to Government. The sites
and roads therein referred to
have been marked out in pen-
- cil.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obed^t Serv^t

L. M. Wynne
Foray Col^r

1898.

Department.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 129 M.



From

The Collector of
South Arcot.

DISPATCHED
15 JAN 98

No. 64
Per

Dated 14 Jan 1898

Received 17-1-1898

Registered

Enclosures (one tab)

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

729 a map of the
Chidambaram M.
showing the situation
of certain Muham-
madan burial
ground proposed
to be closed.

Order

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

SOUTH ARCOT.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

No.

FROM

L. M. Wynne Esquire
A. E. Coates Stuart, Esq., I.C.S.,
F.C.S., F.L.S., F.R.C.S.

of COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ARCOT.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

L. Municipal DEPARTMENT.

MADRAS.

SIR,

Referring to your memorandum
No. 1120 dated 22 November 1897
I have the honour to submit herewith
a map of the Chidambaram
Municipality showing
clearly the situation of the Lixmukha-
mudai burial ground pro-
posed to be closed.

I have the honour to be,
Your most obedt servant,

W. K. M. S.
Payor.

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3317/M

20 SEP. 97

From

The collector of
Santhi-ard

No. 1942
Ler

Order

Dated 16th September 1897

Received 22 SEP 1897

Registered 22-9-1897

Enclosures (4)

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Furnishing report called
for regarding the selection
of a new site for a burial
ground to take the place of
the Muhammadan cemetery
in the centre of Chidam-
baram town Chidam-
baram Taluk.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Go	1141	h	10-5-97
"	52	h h	18-1-97
"	1823	h h	2-11-95
"	1000	h	15-6-96
"	995	h h	13-6-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

SOUTH ARCOT.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Camp Tiruvannamalai

DATED 16th September 1897

No. 1962
105

FROM

A. E. Castle Stuart Stuart, Esq., I.C.S.,
F.G.S., F.L.S., F.R.G.S.

COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ARCOT.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Local and Municipal DEPARTMENT.

MADRAS.

SIR,

Referring to Government order no 52. in
mis. dated 15th January 1897, I have the
honour to enclose 2 sketches showing the site
selected for a burial ground to take the place
of the Muhammadan cemeteries within the
Chidambaram Municipality. The sketch
marked A shows the site with reference to
its surroundings, while that marked B represents
the same on an enlarged scale. The portion
marked A in the latter is the site selected.
It lies to the north of the town just outside
the municipal limits, a little to the east of
the Lutheran mission bungalow and chapel
and to the north of the road leading to the
Hindu cemetery. Its area is 2 acres and 34 cents
and it is reported to be sufficient for the purpose.

24.

It is also the site referred to by the Sanitary Commissioner in para 2 of his letter dated 10th December last, quoted in the above Government order. The portions marked B & C are unfit for burial grounds.

2. The Head Assistant Collector Mr. Mac Iver, who was instructed to hold a Conference on the subject with the Muhammadan inhabitants of the place and to obtain their consent if possible to the proposed closure of the existing cemeteries on sanitary grounds, reports that they are unwilling to consent and that they have filed the accompanying printed petition representing their views on the subject. A copy of the Head Assistant Collector's report which deals in detail with the several objections raised by the memorialists is enclosed. From the point of view of pure reason - apart from all sentimentality, the objections raised have been fully met.

3. There can, however, be no doubt that the local Muhammadan sentiment is dead against the closing of the cemeteries which the Sanitary Commissioner recommends shall be closed, being "of opinion that their continued use is liable to be inimical to the public health on account of their proximity to dwellings and water supplies". The opinion of so high a Sanitary authority is undoubtedly entitled to great weight and the Sanitary Commissioner's recommendations are rarely assailable on purely scientific grounds, however, frequently

frequently they may be counsels of perfection incapable of practical execution. In the present instance, the alleged liability of public health, suffering from the continued ^{use} of the old cemeteries is urged as an argument against the most cherished orthodox ^{and} time-honoured and religious sentiments of practically the whole Muhammadan community of Chidambaram. It is, I respectfully submit, for Government to decide whether that argument is to be allowed to prevail - or whether in deference to sentiment - which after all is expediency is a very potent factor for consideration in practical politics - it may not be possible to meet the wishes of the people primarily interested half or more than halfway. The Muhammadan population of the town according to the census figure of 1891 is 1102 and the death-rate of the town was 32.72 per mille. It would thus appear that only some 36 Muhammadans die every year in Chidambaram or 3 per thousand. It might, I think, be possible to require interments to be made at a certain fixed minimum depth and thereby reduce to a minimum the liability referred to by the Sanitary Commissioner without seeming absolutely contrary to the wishes of the people. Some such regulation

regulation would probably suffice to stave off
all dangers to health for the present and for some
years to come. A time may, of course, come, as
in all crowded cities, it must, when absolute
closure may be imperatively demanded but,
pace the Sanitary Commissioner, I don't
think that ^{time} ~~there~~ has yet arrived in Chisam-
baram and on the principle that "sufficient
unto the day is the evil thereof" I would
advocate in the interests of local Musselman
sentiment, which I feel bound to represent
to Government, I would advocate the adoption
of a flexible lenient policy.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

M. K. K. K.
for Collector

K/K

A

To

THE HEAD ASST. MAGISTRATE,
SOUTH ARCOT.

MOST HONORED SIR,

With reference to the notice served on some of the members of our community of this place ordering us to show cause why the burying of the bodies of the dead in the burial ground in Lalkahn's street should not be stopped, we the undersigned Mahomedan inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood most humbly beg leave to submit the following for your honour's favourable consideration.

The burial ground in question is attached to masjids built some 300 years ago by one Abdul Nabee Kahn Sahib, Nawab of Cudappah and one Lalkahn Sahib. The two great men put up also a cabarstan (grave) of granite work where, the remains of the dead members of their family were interred.

2. The ground was subsequently set apart as a public burial ground for the members of our community which act constitutes the charity of *vahpu*.

3. The whole ground is kept out of public view by a strong brickwall and the remains of the dead are interred by the side of the graves of the dead members of his family in pits 2 yards deep and covered with a platform 1 yard high. These graves are properly taken care of by the members of the different families and the superintendent specially appointed for the purpose. It could thus be seen that the burial ground in question interferes in no way with good sanitation in the neighbourhood.

This fact will further be clear to your honor by the mere fact that the Hindu aliens who own houses in the very adjacent neighbourhood and who might naturally be expected to take offence at the least inconvenience have not raised the slightest objection to the remains of the dead being interred there for the last 300 years.

4. The remains of the dead ought, according to the tenets and observances of our religion, to be laid in graves attached to masjids in order that the souls of the dead might obtain salvation by the Pang, Patiha and other daily, monthly and annual prayers and ceremonies offered in the masjids individually and collectively. Besides prayers ought to be offered and ceremonies observed by a good number of the members of our community in the masjid before the bodies of the dead are laid in the grave, the salvation of the deceased, according to the tenets and observances of our religion, being the more intense the more the members attend.

Your honor could thus clearly see that such a thing would be impracticable if the burial ground is separated from the masjids; and this is why the ancient Nawabs have invariably attached burial grounds to masjids.

At this stage, we beg leave to point out that this is, in fact, the case in all the big towns in India.

We further beg leave to state that, in the separation of the burial ground from the masjid, we will be taking a course, not sanctioned by our laws and religion, as we cannot provide for the well being of the souls of our dead ancestors and of ourselves.

We therefore most humbly pray that your honor will be graciously pleased not to interfere with our religious freedom so well prized by us and so graciously assured to us by HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN in the grand Charter proclaimed 35 years ago and which, in the present case, we have been enjoying without the least interruption whatever for the last 300 years.

For which act of justice and charity, we shall, as in duty bound,

EVER PRAY.

Your honor's most obedient and humble servants.

Yours honor

Edward A. T. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MS. Durham

and approved of my
Prayer and my
 - Prayer of 12. 65 am and 6

Dealing being a businessman with money

4th Dec 1862 3/11/62
R. James Thompson
L. M. 2

myself by myself

6080/87
Salem Jail No. 855
- by [unclear] any name

Handwritten signature

Syed Gulam Salati Diwan Sahib

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دینار محمد بن علی

By morning again

அங்குல அங்குலம் - அங்குல அங்குலம்

10 May 65
H. G. S. H. G. S.

இளவழிஞ்சி

Handwritten notes in Tamil script:

செய்யுது நன்
உத்தரவு செய்து
பிரதமர்

Don't forget to
bring in - one of our
HAB CARD players

Handwritten signature

சுந்தர் பூமி

[illegible]

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20/10/1914

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Handwritten signature: *Wm. L. G. Smith*

பெரிய சிவசுந்தரி

சென்னை 30

Benjamin Franklin

நததுயர் குகையினது

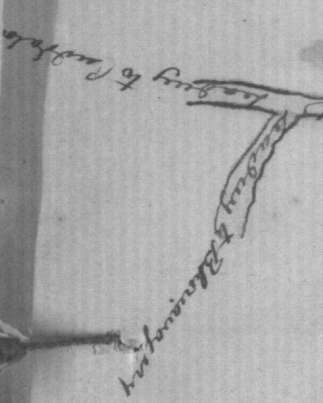
my very best
for all my friends and family
H. A. W. L. E. M. A.

V. y. adn. Buena Vista

Mag. Courtenay

அதிகாரம் என்ன?

1873



Cardi. angul.
Per Surfr
46.97

From

S. W. G. I. Iwas Iwas Esquire
M. Head Assistant Collector
Sonthi Arcot

To

The collector of Sonthi Arcot

Dated 27th July 1897

No. 993/1897.

Sir

Adverting to your Proceedings Ref on
Reg. No. 64/Ver. Sup. of 1897 dated 7th July 1897
I have the honour to report as follows:-

Issued a notice to the leading heads-
masters of Chidambaram informing
them that the Government had decided
on Sanitary grounds to close the present
Machomedan burial grounds within the
town and to select a site outside the
town for future burials and inviting
them to meet me at the Taluk Cutcherry
on the 26th instant to discuss the subject
and to select a fresh site. In response
to my invitation, more than 50 Machomedan
residents of the town of all ranks ^{occupations} assembled
together

together yesterday at 9 A.M. in the Taluk
Cutcherry. Besides the trustees of the burial
grounds proposed to be closed, there were
present the Kaji of the town, the one Mahomedan
Councillor, the Mahomedan Schoolmaster
and several merchants, shambars and culti-
vators of the Mahomedan community.
I had the order of the Government and the
reasons for the same clearly explained to
the meeting in Hindustani by the Police
Inspector Ghatalla Sahib. They thereupon put
in the enclosed printed petition marked
A which they said was prepared when
Mr. Slocock was Head Assistant Collector
here and when the question of closing one
of the burial grounds was once before raised
and which, they said, represented the views
of the Mahomedan inhabitants of the town
on the subject and made the enclosed state-
ment before me. It will be seen therefore
that they are not willing that the present
burial grounds should be closed. Their
reasons are the following:—

(1) Their people should be buried within
the precincts of a Masjid; if a new Masjid
be

be erected outside the town, people will not
resort freely to it to pray for the dead.

(2) According to their tenets they should
be buried at the feet of their ancestors.

(3) In case people go to a new Masjid,
the old one built by the Nawab Abdul Nabi
khan may become abandoned.

(4) The Hindus take their dead in all
the four directions outside the town and
the Mahomedans cannot take their dead
in the same direction because the former
carry their dead in procession with musical
instruments and this may hurt the feelings
of the latter who carry their dead quietly.

(5) There are no drinking water wells in the
vicinity of the present graveyards and

(6) Chidambaram is a small town with
few Mahomedans. In bigger towns the
burial grounds have not been closed.

As regards the first objection a Masjid
can be erected in the new site.

As regards the second objection, it must
be observed that in the course of some
years the present burial grounds will
be

be filled up and a new site will have to be chosen.

The third reason is inconsistent with the first. What the mahomedans first said was that people would not go to a new masjid outside the town.

The inconvenience pointed out in the fourth ground must be felt even at present in as much as the present burial grounds are in the midst of Hindu houses and some of the mahomedans must pass through Hindu streets before they can carry their dead to the present burial grounds.

As regards the fifth reason, the grounds stated are not true as there are wells and dwelling houses close to some of the graveyards and the Sanitary Commissioner who is the best authority on these matters has declared them to be objectionable.

With regard to the last reason I do not know what has been done in other towns. The mahomedan population of Chinsambaram according to the Census of 1891 is 1102. The death rate of the town as per last Administration Report of the Municipality being 32.72 per mille, there

there must be on an average about 36 deaths every year among this community.

The mahomedans say they are unwilling to take up the site proposed because they are afraid that if they say the site is unobjectionable, this may be taken as a consent to the closing of the old graveyards. They do not seem to have any fault to find with this site in particular, but will not say whether they would prefer this or any other spot. There is no doubt that the mahomedans feel very strongly in this matter and that they will never voluntarily consent to the closure of their graveyards although one or two of them when alone may be induced to consent rather than appear to oppose the wishes of the authorities.

If it is a fact as alleged that burials within large towns such as Madras, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore have not been prohibited, there seems to be some force in the last objection put forth and unless there is some special reason, of which I am not aware, for greater strictness in Chinsambaram the general question of closing

he closing all burial grounds here might
to well be postponed until the question has
the been dealt with in the larger towns.
in Meanwhile burial should certainly be
on prohibited in several of the small private
graveyards which are close to houses
and drinking waterwells. In case it
is decided that all the grave yards must
be closed, an order informing the Maho-
medans definitely of this decision
may be issued, after which it may be
possible to get them to discuss the question
of the best place for a new Cemetery.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(H) J. Mac. Iver
28. 7. 97.

Hd Head Assistant Collector

1. True copy /

for collection

KH

4
3317
12/11/97

3317 K

Memorandum.

Dated the 2nd November 1897.

No. 1120

The Collector is requested to obtain
from the Chairman Municipal Council,
Chidambaram, a complete map of
the Municipality showing clearly the six
Muhammadian burial grounds
which are proposed to be closed
and submit it to Government at
an early date.

VR
23/11/97

9/10/97

Copy made & kept
together

To the Collector of South arc.
Dated 2/11/97

Memorandum.

Cuo 229m

Dated the 8th February 1898.

No. 152

The plan submitted by the Collector with his letter read above will be returned to him with the request that he will mark on it the proposed site for the Muham-
-madan burial ground and the Hindu burial ground which seems to be near it, with ^{the} roads leading to both and resubmit ^{it} the same to government.

V.A.
4/2/98

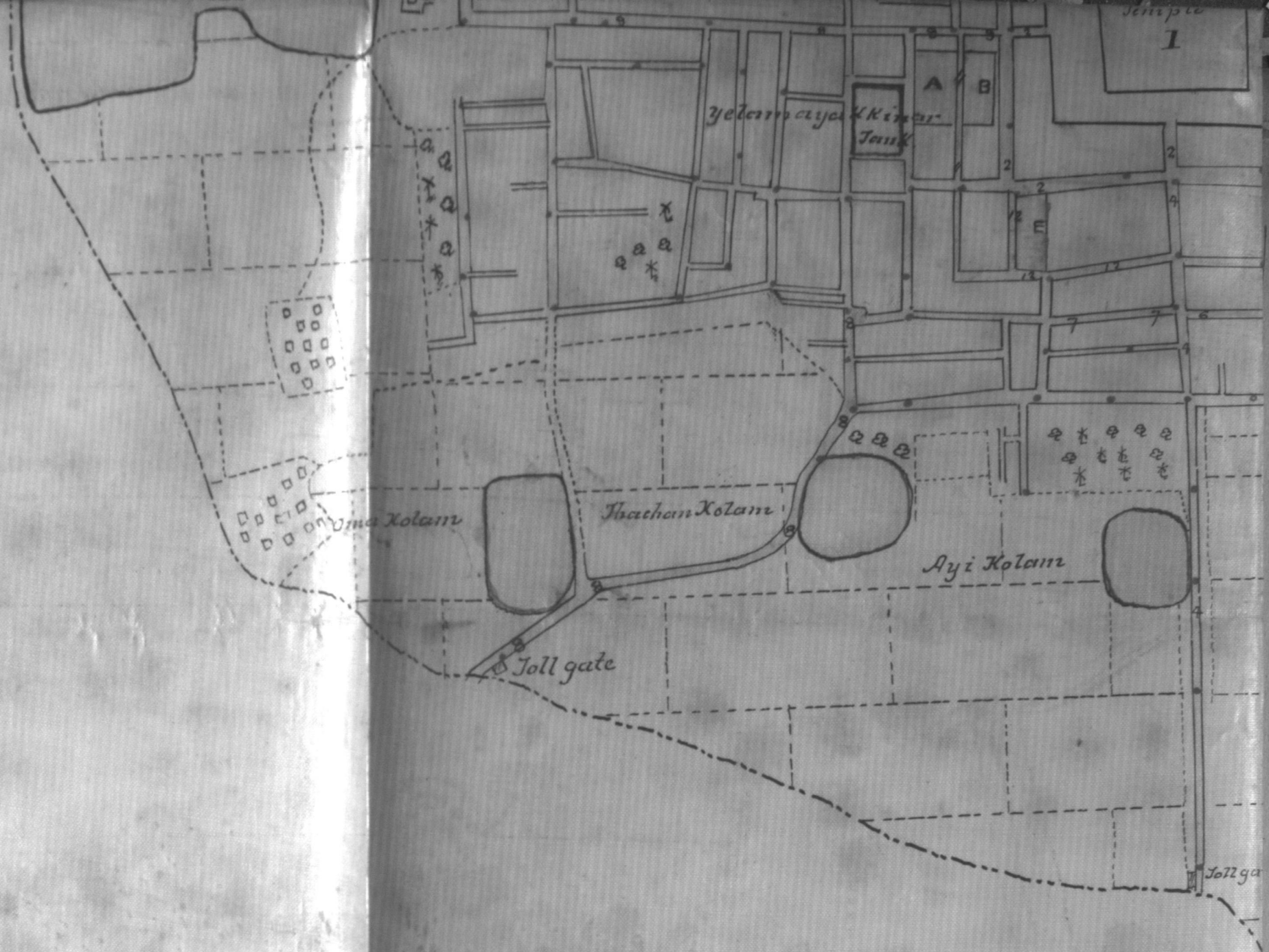
a.f. 4
4/2/98

Copy disp. & keep
papers together -
May 7/2/98

The Collector of South Arcot
with a plan to be returned

Shewing





Traced by P. Doraswamy Naidu
 P.W. Overseer.
 Chidambaram Municipality

MAP

of

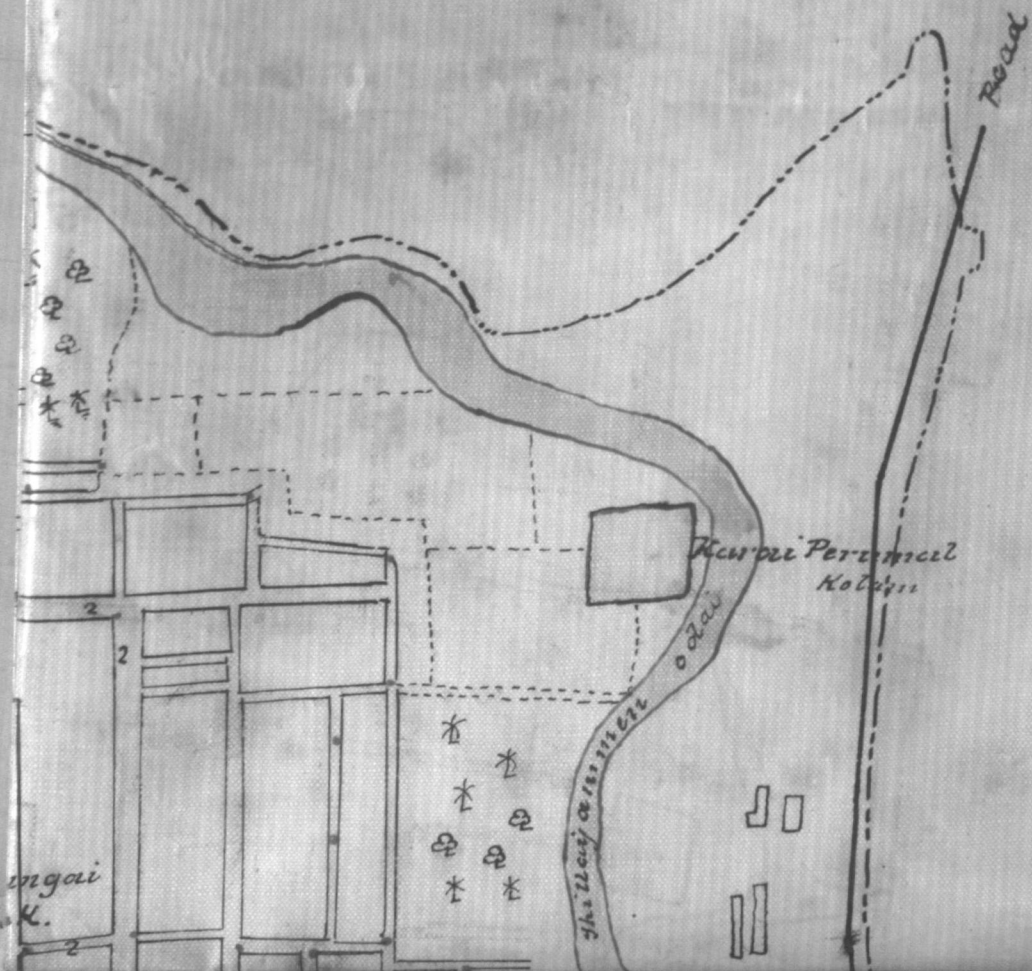
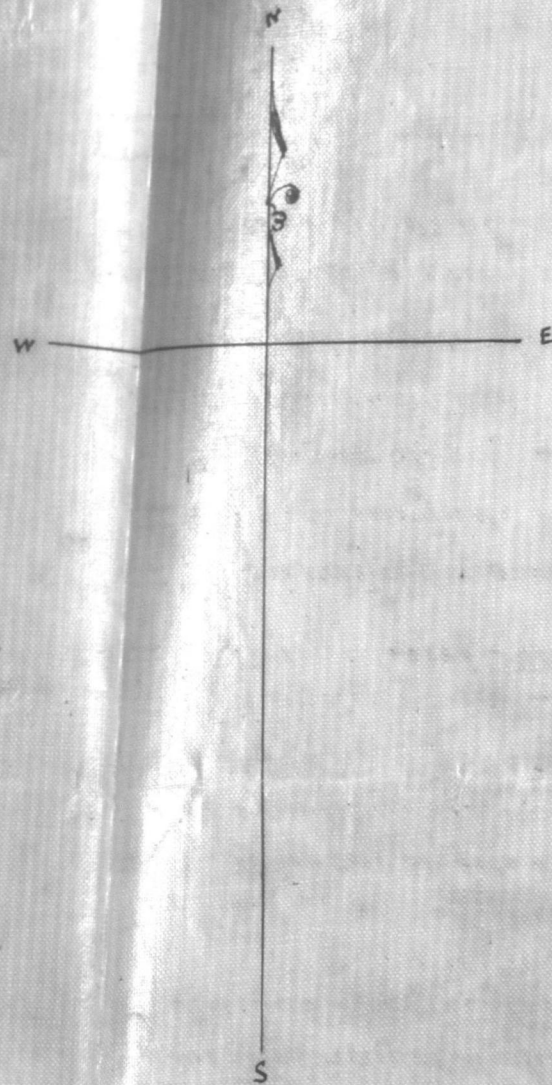
Chudambaram Town

The Situation of the 6 Mahamadon burial grounds
Which are proposed to be closed.

Scale

8" = 1 mile

no 522 Proposed Site for the
Mahamadon burial
ground
no 84-85+90 Present
Hindu burial
ground.





References

- A Lal Khan Musjid Graveyard in Kothaval Street
- B The public Graveyard do.
- C Aser Sheriff's Graveyard in Katchari lane
- D Kadar Khan's Graveyard on Chinnannacolam South Bank
- E The Makhan of Michur Saib. in Vellapiranthan mudali St
- F Nawab Musjid Graveyard in Katcheri lane

Names of Roads & Streets main

- = 2 Four Car Streets & Summary Streets
- = 3 North main Road
- = 4 Ammapet Road
- = 5 Feeder Road
- = 6 Sengaluni Pilliar Col Street

- = 7 Sarayagodown Street
- = 8 Mannargudi Road
- = 9 Bazar Street
- = 10 Katcheri lane
- = 11 Kothaval Street
- = 12 Vellapiranthan mudali Street
- = Inner Streets & lanes.

Chanel & okey



Kolams or Tanks.

Rail Road



Car tracks

Foot tracks Paths

• Lamp Posts

Chidambaram Municipal Office
10th January 1898

Ramaswami
Chairman

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150

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED _____
190 .

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT. _____

STATEMENT WITH DITTO. _____

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