1. Number of pages. 8
2. Date of repair. 30-8-
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—82,400—23-11-50.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial (Jails) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2229 Press Mis.

Dated 5 12 18 50

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th December 1857.

No. 84. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 30th November 1857, No. 5596.

Read the following Memorandum by Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, on the proposed New European Barracks at Trichinopoly; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer dated 26th November 1857.

The construction of New European Barracks at Trichinopoly being again under contemplation after the subject had been apparently laid aside for ever, I think it not unadvisable to place on record a few remarks as to the best site and arrangement of the buildings.

2. The spot selected in 1815 was the high ground S. E. of the Church, known as the Brigade ground, and in many respects it is by far the best at the station, but I think it was overlooked, that the Barracks must then be exposed to the full force of the high westerly winds prevalent during June, July, August, and often even in September which are the cause of great discomfort even in more sheltered situations, but which blow over the high open plain with excessive violence and I have always noticed that fever prevails more during those months than at any other season, while Cholera is invariably more or less epidemic in the N. E. monsoon.

3. The orders originally issued for planning the Barracks prescribed the Bengal standard, both in detail and general arrangement, the Barracks consisting of fine terraced buildings, without any open verandah, and disposed in echellon so that each block should catch the breeze, but the want of outer verandahs was so soon felt at Bellary, that they have been subsequently added, and the echellon arrangement has been abandoned at Bangalore for one of double column which while scarcely inferior in regard to means of ventilation, affords in some degree a defensible position, which will not now be considered useless.

4. Although the experimental Well sunk on the southern slope of the proposed site in 1815, afforded a copious supply of good drinking water, yet it is doubtful if there would be an available quantity for other purposes, and if not, the distance from which water must be carried would be considerable. The Well itself was on much lower ground than the actual site, and means must be adopted for raising the water to flush the drains, an indispensable condition in such constructions.

5. The finest site that could be found for New Barracks would be that occupied by the properties of Major General Cleveland (Belfont) and Tota Veeraragavoo Chetty (formerly Colonel Underwood's,) as the ground there, is sufficiently high and open but not completely exposed to the westerly winds, and it is moreover more favorably situated as regards water. The purchase of both could probably be effected for less than 20,000 Rupees, and this additional cost would be of no consequence compared to the advantages likely to be gained.

Resolved that in forwarding copy to Government of the foregoing Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle P. W., on the best site for the intended new Barracks at Trichinopoly, a plan of the Cantonment clearly exhibiting the position formerly selected and the two properties now recommended for immediate purchase by Major Lawford be also transmitted for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. Resolved also that the Chief Engineer's strenuous recommendation in favor of the views so ably enforced by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle be expressed, based as they are on his own many years intimate personal knowledge of the localities and of the furious westerly winds prevailing on the exposed elevated ground South East of the Church at present used for Brigade exercise.

3. Resolved, also to express the Chief Engineer's respectful opinion in favor of purchasing the two properties marked A. A. in the Plan, as adding, but a comparatively small sum to the

unavoidably large expenditure for providing suitable accommodation for a European Regiment; the Hospital however being placed on the space, between the Solitary Cells and present Artillery buildings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 85. ORDER THEREON, No. 2279; dated 8th December 1857.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department for consideration.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 5596

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works

Under date the 30 Dec^r 1857

Read the following.

Memorandum by Major Lawford, Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, on the proposed New European Barracks at Trichinopoly.

The construction of New European Barracks at Trichinopoly being again under contemplation after the subject had been apparently laid aside for ever, I think it not unadvisable to place on record a few remarks as to the best site and arrangement of the Buildings.

2. The spot selected in 1845 was the high ground S.E. of the Church, known as the Brigade Ground, and in many respects it is by far the best at the station, but I think it was overlooked, that the Barracks must then be exposed to the full force of the high Westerly winds prevalent during June, July, August, and often even in September — which are the cause of great discomfort even in more sheltered situations, but which blow over the high open plain with excessive violence and I have always noticed that fever prevails more during those

those months than at any other season while the climate is invariably more or less pestilential in the S.W. monsoon.

3. The orders originally issued for planning the Barracts prescribed the Bengal standard, both in detail and general arrangement the Barracts consisting of fine terraced buildings, without any open verandah, and disposed in quadrangles so that each block should catch the breeze, but the want of outer verandahs was in some few cases felt, and that they have been subsequently added, and the echelon arrangement has been adopted in the Bangalore for one of double column which is scarcely inferior in regard to means of ventilation, affords in some degree a defensible position which will not now be considered useless.

4. Although the experimental well sunk on the southern slope of the ground rose in hard afforded a copious supply of good drinking water, yet it is doubtful if there would be sufficient quantity for other purposes, and if not the distance from which water must be carried would be considerable. The well itself now in use is in a ground than the actual site, and would require adopted for raising the water to flush the urinals an indispensable condition in the hot season.

5. The finest site that could be found for New Barracts would be that occupied by

by the properties of Major General Cleveland (Belfout) and Tota Veeraragavoo Chetty (formerly Colonel Underwoods,) as the ground there, is sufficiently high and open but not completely exposed to the westerly winds, and it is moreover more favorably situated as regards water. The purchase of both could probably be effected for less than 20,000 Rupees, and this additional cost would be of no consequence compared to the advantages likely to be gained.

(Signed) E. Lawford Major
Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle.

Supt. Engineer's Office
Southern Circle
Fort St. George
26th November 1857.

To The Chief Engineer P.W.

Resolved that in forwarding copy to Government of the foregoing Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle P.W. on the best site for the intended new barracks at Trichinopoly, a Plan of the cantonment clearly exhibiting the position formerly selected and the two properties now recommended for immediate purchase by Major Lawford be also transmitted for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. Resolved also that the Chief Engineer's

Enclosures 1. The Plan

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strenuous recommendation in favor of the views so ably enforced by the Superintending Engineer in Southern Circle be expressed, based as they are on his own many years intimate personal Knowledge of the localities and of the furious Westerly winds prevailing on the exposed elevated ground South East of the Church at present used for Brigade exercise.

3. Resolved, also to express the Chief Engineer's respectful opinion in favor of purchasing the two properties marked A.A. in the Plan, as adding but a comparatively small sum to the unavoidably large expenditure for providing suitable accommodation for a European Regiment; the Hospital however being placed on the space between the solitary cells & present Artillery buildings.

(True Extract)

(Sd.) A. Cadell Colonel
Chief Engineer

To,

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

P. W. Office. 18th Dec. 1854
Comg & Engrs Dept
No 2374

Extract from the Rep.
of the
Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Dated 16th
Rec'd Dec. 18th 1854

Encl. Estimate Milly Defts £5576
Plans of Barrs. Milly Defts £916
Nos. 5886 & 774 inclo. Rec.

Forwards with observations, copy of Memo by the Supt Engr &c. on the site for the intended new barracks at Trichinopoly, together with a plan of the Cantonments exhibiting the properties recommended for immediate purchase, for the information of the Right Honble the Govr in Council.

& With an order

No 2279.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department for consideration.

E. G.

Fort St. George
6th Dec. 1854

1 Copies to the Secy Govt with Plan.
Supt Engr

1884-85