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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1803

Press
Mis. -

672-673

Dated

29. 6.

1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

At 2-11-65

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd June 1865.

Read the following papers:—

No. 189. From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 26th April 1865, No. 6667.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Order of Government, No. 2728, dated 19th September 1864, and to G. O.,

Enclosures.

1 Letter from the Commissioner of Police, No. 791, dated 14th January 1865. No. 827, dated 8th March 1865, I have the honor to forward two plans of, and a sketch exhibiting the site proposed for, a new Civil Debtor's Jail. One of the plans will be found to have received the counter-signature, in token of general approval, of the Commissioner of Police and of the Sheriff of Madras.

1 Do. from the Sheriff of Madras, No.—, dated 1st February 1865.

1 Do. from Commissioner of Police, No. 463, dated 30th September 1864.

1 Do. from the Sheriff of Madras, No. 10, dated 11th October 1864.

2 Plans.

1 Sketch.

2. Accommodation is provided for 100 prisoners in all, viz., 25 European and East Indian, and 50 Native male, and 10 European and East Indian, and 15 Native female prisoners.

3. From the site plan it will be seen that some modifications will have to be made in the arrangements for out-buildings, as shown on the large plans, so as to adapt them to the ground, which was selected by Colonel Wilson and myself as a suitable locality for the Debtor's Prison. It is situated immediately outside of that portion of the town wall which lies to the north of the Grand Jail.

4. The open drains, now intersecting the ground, will of course be covered in.

5. If Government are pleased to accord their general approval to the design, I will cause a detailed estimate to be prepared. It will, however, I presume, first be requisite to obtain the opinion of the Sanitary Commission on the arrangements proposed.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police; to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, Madras; dated 14th January 1865, No. 781.

I have the honor to return the plan received with your letter of the 9th instant, with my signature attached, as requested.

2. If there is any drawing showing the elevation, I should like to see it, or else to be informed of the proposed height of the boundary wall, and of the basement of the building.

From Colonel J. IMPETT, Sheriff of Madras; to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; dated Madras, 1st February 1865.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 27th instant, No. 5390, together with a Block plan of a new debtors' Jail, proposed to be erected at the Presidency.

2. The plan appears to me to be unobjectionable as regards the accommodation allowed for the prisoners and the Jailer, and to that extent I approve of it.

3. I would suggest that there should be four or six rooms, of proportionate sizes, for the Native male debtors, instead of one large room as shown in the plan.

4. I would further suggest, that there should be two or three rooms for the European and East Indian female debtors, and also the same number of rooms for the Native Female debtors, instead of two large rooms as shown in the plan, as it seems desirable that Natives of high caste should not be placed in immediate proximity with those of a lower caste.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd June 1865.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police, to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; dated Madras, 30th September 1864, No. 463.

In reply to your letter of the 29th instant, No. 3139, I have the honor to state that I do not consider the neighbourhood of the Penitentiary to be eligible as the site of a Debtor's Jail, on account of its distance from the Court, and for other reasons.

2. The ground on which the boatmen's huts used to stand appeared to me likely to answer well in every respect; but it was advertised for auction sale on the 24th instant, with the reservation of a piece intended for the Sailors' Home, and I therefore imagine that it is no longer available.

3. There is a piece of ground just outside the Monegar Choultry gate, which I have no doubt will do very well for the purpose, and there are other eligible sites in the same neighbourhood. I shall be happy to meet you there, if convenient, on Monday next at 5½ A. M., or at any other time which you may prefer.

From Colonel J. IMPETT, Sheriff of Madras, to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; dated Madras, 11th October 1864, No. 10.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, No. 3235.

2. I am of opinion that accommodation should be provided, in the new Debtor's Jail proposed to be erected, for 100 prisoners, in the following proportions, viz.:

<i>Males.</i>	
Europeans and East Indians...	25
Natives...	50
<i>Females.</i>	
Europeans and East Indians...	10
Natives...	15
Total...	100

3. Annexed is a list of the rooms required for various purposes.

4. A copy of your letter of the 3rd instant, was forwarded by me to Dr. vanSomerén, who is in Medical charge of the Grand Jail. Enclosed is a copy of his reply.

List.

1. Room for the Jail Guard.
2. Office for Jailer.
3. General Store room.
4. Massaljee's room.
5. Chapel.
6. Hospital or sick Ward.
7. Surgery.
8. Privy and Cook-room for Hospital.
9. Bed-rooms, Cook-houses, Bath-rooms, Privies, &c., as many as may be necessary.
10. House for Jailer with out-offices, Coach godowns, Stabling, &c., &c.

Referred to the Judicial Department, with reference to the orders in that Department noted below:—

No. 1357, 13th September 1854.

„ 429, 18th March 1865.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
28th April 1865.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

Referred to the Sanitary Commission, for their opinion.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
3rd May 1865.

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

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd June 1865.

No. 190. From D. MACPHERSON, Esq., M. D., Officiating President Sanitary Commission, Madras, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 5th June 1865, No. 90.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memorandum, dated 3rd May,

Letters from Colonel Wilson, No. 781, dated 14th January 1865, and No. 463, dated 30th September 1864.
Letters from the Sheriff of Madras, No. 10, dated 11th October 1864, and 1st February 1865.
Letter from Colonel Boileau, No. 6667, dated 26th April 1865.
Two Plans of Civil Debtor's Jail, and,
One sketch of site.

and the papers, as per margin, herewith returned, referring to the Sanitary Commission, for their opinion, two plans and a rough sketch, showing the site proposed for a new Civil Debtor's Jail.

2. The Commission are of opinion, after considering and examining the plans submitted, that ample provision has been in most respects made for a sufficient number* of Civil debtors. They approve

* Vide Colonel Boileau's letter, No. 6667, paragraph 2.

of the plans generally, but at the same time observe that the relative position of the European and Eurasian females, and of the Native females, might with advantage be changed, so as to afford to the former the benefit of the better ventilated apartments.

3. There is, however, one very serious defect in the accommodation provided for 50 Native males. It is proposed to put them in six wards of equal size, 18' 4" x 22' 0", or in each 403 square feet. In four wards eight debtors would be placed with 50 square feet superficial area, and in two wards nine debtors would have only 35 square feet.

Both these allotments of space are much too small; not less than 80 square feet should be allowed to each Native. This part of the plan, therefore, requires alteration, and the extreme sub-division of the wards for Native male debtors seems unnecessary.

4. We consider that the stable is objectionable, from its being in too close proximity to the dwelling of the Jailer, and the more so, as it is likely to mar the architectural appearance of the building.

5. The stable and coach-house should either be detached entirely, or placed in the north-western corner, where they might be made to pass back into the Courtyard, the entrances to them being in the outer wall, and the rest of the building being a dead wall, with roof tubular ventilation. By this arrangement, the Commission think the stable would never be to windward of any inhabited building.

6. This Commission further observe that there is no means of direct access for female prisoners requiring to go to the proposed Hospital, and would suggest that an Hospital be provided for females, as their treatment under the same roof with males is open to objection. A good site for a female Hospital is shown in pencil on the plan.

7. We would also recommend that a "separate ward" for contagious cases, or for epidemic disease, should be built, as, although this ward will probably be seldom required, it is highly desirable that it should be erected, since the spread of contagious disease in a Civil Debtor's Jail would be much to be regretted.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1865, No. 898.

No. 191. The Governor in Council approves of the proposal of the Sanitary Commission, in regard to the position of the wards for the European and Eurasian females, and for Native women.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd June 1865.*

2. The space to be allowed for each Native male prisoner should be that ordered by the Government of India in the case of Criminal Jails, viz., a superficial area of 36 square feet, and a cubical space of 648.

3. The position of the stable and coach-house may be altered as suggested by the Sanitary Commission, if it can be done conveniently; but it is not a matter of much consequence.

4. Considering that the maximum number of females to be accommodated in the Jail is only 35, that the average number is probably much below that, as well as the usually brief period of incarceration, the Governor in Council sees no necessity for a separate female Hospital. Arrangements should, of course, be made for the complete separation of the sexes in the hospital; nor does His Excellency in Council consider a separate ward for contagious or epidemic diseases to be required. In the very rare cases where such diseases prevail, it will probably be always practicable to set aside one or more of the prison cells or wards, temporarily, for the purpose.

5. Subject to the above remarks, the Governor in Council approves of the plan, and directs that the Superintending Engineer will proceed with the estimate.
(True Extract).

A. J. C. M. S. S.
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department. *with two plans & one sketch*
" Sanitary Commission.
" Commissioner of Police.
" Sheriff of Madras.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

1865
Pro- of Govt. for June
2330
No. 11. J. O. S. in the
Judicial Department
Dated 25 June/65
Recd.
E. S. No 898
Passing orders
on letter from the Super.
Eng. to the Sub. Engineering
plans of the proposed
Civil Debtors Jail at
the Presidency -
1863 - 29 June/65
1865
No. 1803
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer
Division who will be guided by the orders contained
in para 1 to 4 in the notification of the estimate for
the proposed jail
To the Superintending Engineer
Division with two plans
Dated 20 June 1865
1865
1865