M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 25-45-46	Press / Mis.
89-71	
Dated 6-10	1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

91

(1)

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th October 1871.

No. 89. Read the following letter from the Consulting Architect to Government, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 13th September 1871, No. B :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the detailed plans for the proposed new Telegraph Office at Madras. The general skeleton plans have been approved of and countersigned by the Director-General of Indian Telegraphs.

Drawing No. 1, front elevation.
" " 2, plan of first floor.
" " 3, plan of upper floor.
" " 4, plan of basement.
" " 5, back elevation.
" " 6, side do.
" " 7, longitudinal section.
" " 8, cross sections.

2. The building will be three storied, exhibiting a frontage of 213 feet, excluding the porches. It will contain in all 39·083 superficial feet area of flooring, apportioned as follows :—

	Supl. feet.
1. Office accommodation	10·920
2. Dwelling apartments and rooms connected therewith	14·177
3. Verandahs, etc.	13·986
Total area...	39·083

3. It will be seen that the actual office room occupies but a small portion of the structure; hence the cost is much larger than might be expected for so simple an office. I have provided in the plan only those rooms actually required by the Telegraph authorities, and these are of minimum dimensions. The Director-General makes the remark, in referring to the accommodation on the skeleton plan, that "it is very limited."

4. There is a feature which adds very materially to the cost of all structures in Madras, and, to a certain extent, gives rather an odd appearance to geometrical drawings. I allude to verandahs. It has hitherto been customary to provide sun-shades of some description to all public buildings, and I have advisedly followed this custom. In structures three or four rooms deep, the extra cost of such adjuncts is not much felt; in single room buildings, on the contrary, as much as 50 or 60 per cent. is added to the cost. It seems to me a question whether verandahs are of such utility as to demand this sacrifice. The artistic treatment of verandahs is extremely difficult; either the verandah face may be treated as the façade proper (the Italian method), or it may be merely an ornate screen to an ornate building seen through, as in the case of most English, French, and German cloisters. As the different treatment arose no doubt from the one being a sun-shade and the other a weather shield, I have in all designs, except the new Senate House, adopted the Italian method, although the inclination in Saracenic art is to show the building proper as much as possible.* I make these remarks because the geometrical elevations of such buildings, like the design now submitted, present and odd "all-window" appearance.

* This feeling seems to have led ultimately to abandoning supports entirely, and the mere projection of sun-shades in the later marble works of Upper India.

5. The site I intended for this building was Her Majesty's Granary, as the removal of the Post Office rendered this ground available. I have been directed

by the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, to place the building on the site of the Abercrombie Battery, and to arrange it so as to leave space available on the same site for the proposed new premises of the Bank of Madras. To suit this site the building must be reduced in length about 22 feet. On the enclosed rough plan I have shown in pencil two different methods of arranging the building, Plan No. 1 facing the site, and Plan No. 2 facing the south. Of these two methods, I would strongly recommend for adoption Plan No. 2. The building would be as ornate on the sea-face as on the principal façade. All three faces would be kept open; a fine area, nearly 150 feet broad, would exist before the principal face. If desired, the whole sea-face of both buildings might be blended into one symetrical design, and a larger frontage would be left for the other building. Thus Plan No. 1 leaves for the Bank of Madras an area of—

140 Feet frontage by 180 = 25,200 superficial feet.
Plan No. 2 200 ,, ,, ,, 180 = 36,000 ,, ,,

The *minimum* working area required for the office floor of the Bank is equal to 13,000 superficial feet.

6. The materials of which the Telegraph Office is to be constructed are plain brick walling and granite dressings, arched flooring on rolled joists, and Italian corrugated iron roofing.

7. The cost of the structure will be within Rupees 1,85,000. If the heights of the two lower floors are reduced to 16 feet, a saving of about Rupees 20,000 will be effected.

8. I have forwarded tracings of these plans to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division for the purpose of having a detailed estimate prepared.

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1871, No. 2,545.

TELEGRAPH, No. 2.

ORDERED that the plans submitted by Mr. Chisholm be forwarded to the Government of India with the following letter.

(Here enter No. 2,546, dated 6th October 1871.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To R. F. Chisholm, Esq.
,, the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
,, the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.

Exd. E. C. Shunker,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND, 6*th October* 1871.

No. 91.

No. 2,546.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

TELEGRAPH, No. 3.

From Govt. of India, 25th May 1871, No. 55 A.T.
To do. 28th June ,, ,, 1,730.
From do. 7th Aug. ,, ,, 76 A.T.

SIR,—With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, I am directed herewith to forward the plans prepared by the Consulting Architect for a new Telegraph Office at Madras for which the Imperial Budget of the current official year contains a provision of one lac of Rupees.

2. The designs are submitted in their present outline form and without complete estimates in order that the Government of India may be made acquainted with the extent of accommodation that the Telegraph Department demands, and the probable cost of providing it. This Government are of opinion that £10,000 (one lac of Rupees) is a sufficiently large sum to spend on a Telegraph Office even in so important a position as the city of Madras, and His Excellency in Council would have expected that a substantial, properly commodious, and moderately ornate structure might have been erected for that sum; but it will be noticed from the accompanying report of the Consulting Architect that only about one-fourth of the whole area to be provided will be occupied by the actual office, the remainder being taken up by official residences and verandahs. This Government cannot recommend verandahs being dispensed with, and if the Government of India consider it essential that the whole of the accommodation which the Director-General of Telegraphs considers necessary shall be provided, it appears that an expenditure of fully double what would suffice for an office alone is inevitable, for the Consulting Architect's approximate estimate is Rupees 1,85,000, and the Government are unwilling, in the absence of complete and detailed estimates, to say that the building could be completed for less than two lacs of Rupees.

3. The building which has been designed is a plain structure, of good and substantial brick walling, with granite dressings, arched masonry flooring on rolled joists, as being cheaper than timber or terracing, and Italian corrugated iron roofing; and the only reduction in the estimate that is considered possible for the area prescribed is a sum of Rupees 20,000, if the height of the ground and first floor are reduced to 16 feet.

4. The drawings now supplied by Mr. Chisholm are accompanied by the one that has the Director-General's approval, and by a rough sketch showing sites

Nos. 1 and 2, to which reference is made in the Consulting Architect's report, and I am to state that the Government propose that the building shall be erected on the beach. It will not be feasible to expend more than half the grant for the current year. With regard to the other half orders have already been issued by the Government of India in letter No. 97 A. T., dated 18th September 1871.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

(5)

No. B.

Camp Ootacamund.
13th September 1871.

From
R. Chisholm. Lt. R. I. B. A.
Consulting Architect to Government.

To
Col. J. Carpendale R. E.
Secretary to Govt P. W. Department.

Sir

I have the honor to submit the detailed plans for the proposed new Telegraph Office at Madras. The General Skeleton plans have been approved of and countersigned by the Director General of Indian Telegraphs.

Drawing No 1. Front Elevation.
" " 2. Plan of First Floor
" " 3. Plan of Upper floor
" " 4. Plan of Basement.
" " 5. Back Elevation
" " 6. Side Elevation
" " 7. Longitudinal Section
" " 8. Cross Sections.

2 The Building will be three storied, exhibiting a frontage of

of 213 feet, excluding the porches. It will contain in all 39.083 superficial feet area of flooring, apportioned as follows:-

1 Office accommodation -	10.920	Sup. feet
2 Dwelling apartments and rooms connected therewith	14.177	"
3 Verandahs &c	13.986	"
Total Area	39.083	"

3 It will be seen that the actual Office room, occupies but a small portion of the structure, hence the cost is much larger than might be expected for so simple an Office - I have provided in the plan all those rooms actually required by the Telegraphic Authorities and these are of minimum dimensions - The Director General makes the remark in referring to the accommodation on the Skeleton plan, that "it is very limited" -

4. There is a feature which adds very materially to the cost of all structures in Madras, and to a certain extent, gives rather an odd appearance to geometrical drawings, I allude to Verandahs. It has hitherto been customary to provide some shade of some description to all public buildings, and I have advisedly followed this custom - In structures three or four rooms deep, the extra cost of such adjuncts is not much felt; in single room buildings on the contrary, as much as 50 or 60 per cent is added to the cost - It seems to me a question, whether Verandahs are of such utility as to demand this sacrifice - The artistic treatment of Verandahs is extremely difficult - either the Verandah face may be treated as the facade proper, the Italian method, or it may be merely an ornate screen, to an ornate building even though, as in the case of most English, French, and German Cloisters - As the different treatment arise no doubt

from the one being a sunshade, and the other a weather shield, I have in all designs except the two climate houses, adopted the Italian method, although the inclination in practicing it is to shew the building [illegible] as much as possible*. I make these remarks because the generality of Elevations of such buildings like the designs now submitted are pleasant and bold "all window" appearance.

5 The site I intended for this building was Her Majesty's Granary as the removal of the Post Office rendered this ground available. I have been directed by the Secretary of Government P.W.D. to place the building on the site of the Abercrombie battery, and to arrange sketches as to least space available on the same site, for the

* This feeling seems to have led Mr Chisholm to abandoning defects entirely, and the more important of sunshades, in the later designs of Upper India

for the proposed new premises of the Bank of Madras. To suit this site the building must be reduced in length about 22 ft. On the enclosed rough plan I have shown in pencil two different methods of arranging the building Plan No 1. facing the site and plan No 2 facing the South. Of these two methods I would strongly recommend for adoption plan No 2. The Building would be as ornate on the Sea face as on the principal facade, all three faces would be kept open, a free area being 150 feet broad would exist before the principal face, if desired the whole Sea face of both buildings might be blended into one symetrical design, and a larger frontage would be left for the other building. Thus, plan No 1 leaves for the Bank of Madras an area of:—

140 feet frontage by 150 = 25 200 Sup. ft.

Plan No 2 200 ft " " 150 = 36 000 Sup. ft.

The masonry working area required for the
Weir flow of the Bank is equal to 3000
superficial feet -

6 The materials of which the Telegraph
Weir is to be constructed are plain brick
walling and granite dressings — Arched
flooring on rolled joists — and Italian cement
for roofing -

7 The cost of the Structure will be within
the Estimate

For the height of the two lower floors not exceeding
to 16 feet a saving of about £ .. 20.000-0-0
will be effected ..

8 I have forwarded Tracings of the
plans to the Superintending Engineer of the
4th Division for the purpose of having a
detailed Estimate prepared -

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Capt. Nicholson R.E.

Dr. 7th Engrs. No 76 A.T.

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finally asked I am
directed herewith to
forward the plans

The Insurance working area required for

Public Works Department
Offr: of Govt for Ceylon
No 4628

No B.
Dated 13th September 1871
Received 29th "

From R. F. Chisholm
Executive Architect.

To Col. J. Crispendale RE.
Secretary to Govt P.W.D.

Subject
Forwards plans for the Colombo Telegraph Office Alterations.

No 2545 - 2546 - 6 encls 71

No 89

plans

Division for the purpose of having a detailed Estimate prepared.

No 2545.

Ordered that the plans submitted by Mr. Chisholm be forwarded to the Govt of India with the following letter.

No 2546.

To
R. F. Chisholm Esqre
Executive Engr
Superintending Telegraphs Madras
Copy 11/10/71

From Govt of India. 25th May/71. No 55 A.T.
To do - 28 June/71. No 1730.
From do 7th Aug/71. No 76 A.T.

The Secretary to the
Govt of India.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted I am directed herewith to forward the plans

prepared by the Consulting Architect for a new Telegraph Office at Madras. For which the Imperial Budget of the current official year contains a provision of one lac of Rupees.

The designs are submitted in their present outline form and without complete estimates in order that the Govt. of India may be made acquainted with the extent of accommodation that the Telegraph Dept. demands, and the probable cost of providing

it. His Government are of opinion that £10,000 (one lac of Rupees) is a sufficiently large sum to spend on a Telegraph Office even in so important a position as the City of Madras, and His Excellency in Council would have expected that a substantial, properly-commanding and moderately ornate structure might have been erected for that sum, but it will be noticed from the accompanying report of the Consulting Architect that only about one

fourth of the whole area to be provided will be occupied by the actual Office, the remainder being taken up by Official Residences and Verandahs. His Govt. cannot recommend Verandahs being dispensed with, and if the Govt. of India consider it essential that the whole of the accommodation which the Director General of Telegraphs considers necessary shall be provided, it appears that an Expenditure of fully double what would

suffice for an Office alone is inevitable. For the Consulting Architect's approximate estimate is Rs.1,85,000, and the Govt. are unwilling, in the absence of complete and detailed estimates, to say that the building could be completed for less than two lacs of Rupees. Such has been found

The building is a plain structure of good and substantial brick walling with granite dressings. Arched masonry flooring on rolled joists, as being cheaper than timber

or terracing and Italian Corrugated iron roofing, and the only reduction in the estimate that is considered possible for the area prescribed is a sum of Rs: 20,000 if the height of the ground and first floor are reduced to 16 feet.

The Drawings now supplied by Mr. Chisholm are accompanied by the one that has the Director General's approval, and by a rough sketch showing sites Nos 1 and 2 to which reference is made in the Engr. Architects' Report, and I am to state that the Govt. propose that the building must be erected on the beach. It will not be feasible to expend more than half the grant for the current year, and the other half can be surrendered and made available for other buildings.

With regard to the other half orders have already been issued by the Govt. of India in letter No. 4 P. W. dated 18th Sept 1871.

23rd Sept

Despe 11/10/71

Plans despe 31/10/71

revised plan despe 4/11/71.

No. 4628.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To {P. T. Chisholm Esqre
and
The Secretary to the Govt of India

Dated

Rec'd. Ans.

G. O. of Aug 1871, Nos. 2545-2546

Nos. 89-1091

Telegraph Office at Madras

Passing orders on the Consulting Architect's Letter forwarding plans.

~~For the~~

Letter / ~~Forwarding~~ with remarks plans prepared by the Consulting Architect for the new Telegraph Office at Madras.