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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 479. Press Mis.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th January 1872.

Read the following papers :—

No. 94. From the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 9th September 1871, No. 513.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, as directed in G. O., No. 1,910, dated 20th July, I examined the College at Combaconum on the 4th instant. Mr. Chisholm, who accompanied me, stated that it never had been his intention to make use of any portion of the western wing* or of the bay in the front† room of the central block above the basement level.

1 Plan of College at Combaconum.
1 Plan of Court-house at Tanjore.
To be returned.

* DI, DII, DIII, rooms are 20½ feet broad and not 25 feet as shown in the plan.
† D^5.

2. The basement of the existing building stands about 6½ feet above the natural level of the ground, and the foundations of the portions opened for inspection varied from 9 feet to 11½ feet below the basement or floor level; thus the foundations are from 2½ to 5 feet below the natural level of the ground.

3. The walls of the western wing are 2 feet or 2¼ feet thick, the basement and foundations being of the same thickness. The materials are of brick-in-mud. The side walls have been thrust about 2 inches out of the perpendicular by the roof, and the thrust has caused cracks in the verandah pillars about a foot above the basement or floor level.

4. The cracks extend into the basement but are here very slight and do not appear to indicate settlement in the foundations, the only exception being in the western verandah and wall, where cracks are visible on both sides of the building about 7 feet within the western wall, and are suggestive of a slight settlement of the foundations. As the building stands on an artificial mound about 5 feet high, and the ruins of a flight of steps occupy a large portion of the western face of the building, it was not possible to determine with certainty whether the foundations and basement here may be made use of for the far lighter superstructure which Mr. Chisholm proposes to place upon them, and this can probably only be determined when the building is dismantled.

5. Of the main block of the building Mr. Chisholm proposes to make use of the walls of the three centre rooms CI, CII, D^4 up to about 10 feet above the floor level; the walls are massive and appear to be sound, though there are slight cracks in the upper portion of D^4 due to the thrust of the roof.

CI, CII, D^4.
B and D^5.

6. The bay of D^5 and the rear portion of B appear to have consisted originally of open porticos, the roof resting on pillars, and to have been subsequently enclosed; the bay of D^5 must be re-built from the foundation; the rear portion of B consists of a wall only 14 inches thick, built of brick-in-chunam between pillars, portions of which are visible, and as the rest of the walls are 2 and 2¼ feet thick, and are of brick-in-clay, it appears to me that this portion must be of recent construction, and probably rests on a mere retaining wall and will have to

be re-built entirely. Mr. Chisholm appeared to differ from me relative to this portion being of recent construction, because a cornice near the top of the wall had been carried round the pillars.

7. The existing building stands very close to the deep margin of the river; the verandah of the Examination Hall, if placed as shown in the ground plan, would only be 10 feet from the deep margin (this, however, may be thrown back 10 or 20 feet), and the towers which flank the library, etc., 24 feet, and as the deep stream now hugs the north bank, a river wall should, I think, be constructed along the College front.

8. It appears to me to be a matter of doubtful expediency to make use of foundations or portions of a building constructed of such materials as brick-in-mud, in constructing a College at Combaconum. The building being of a permanent nature should be built of the best materials, and, as I learned, incidentally, that Mr. Chisholm had roughly estimated the cost of providing the accommodation* stated to be required for the College at Rupees 1,50,000, and a substantial building providing rather more† accommodation had lately been erected at Tanjore for Rupees 61,256, and could be erected at Combaconum at about the same price, I requested Mr. Porter to inform me whether he considered that a building similar to the Court-house at Tanjore would be suitable for a College, suggesting certain trifling modifications of the plan which would not add to the cost of the building, but which would provide larger rooms for the classes than those provided for the several Courts, by doing away with the small rooms in rear of the Court-rooms so that the body‡ of the building and the wings§ should consist of a single room each; the rooms will not be well proportioned, but their shape is well suited for class rooms. With the alteration proposed and an addition of 4 feet to the rooms between the body and the wings, Mr. Porter is of opinion that the accommodation provided in the Court-house at Tanjore would be sufficient for the College, and that the room 47 feet by 25 feet is sufficiently large for the Examination Hall. The rooms in the Court-house are 15 feet 6 inches high; if the rooms are enlarged, 4 feet might with advantage be added to their height at a cost of Rupees 5,000, raising the estimate to Rupees 67,500 in all.

* 9,652 square feet.

† Both exclusive of verandahs. 9,900

Say, Rupees 62,500.

‡ 47 feet by 25 feet.
§ 42 feet by 22 feet.

24 feet by 20 feet instead of 20 feet by 20 feet.

Mr. Chisholm provides 60 feet by 40 feet.

9. Mr. Chisholm, on being informed of the sum for which the Tanjore Court-house had been erected, roughly estimated the cost of providing the accommodation given in his original design, if built in the simplest style as in the Court-house at Tanjore, at about Rupees 40,000, by making use of portions of the existing building at Combaconum so far as is indicated in paragraphs 1 and 5, and by availing himself of the materials in the portions of the existing building which will be removed.

10. In making his estimate Mr. Chisholm took the cost of the Tanjore Court-house at 2 annas per cubic foot of space provided, while the actual cost is rather more than 2·28 annas per cubic foot or, say, 2¼ annas; this will raise the amount at once to Rupees 45,000, independently of the value of the old materials, which I should regard as *nil*, for the bricks will for the most part prove, I fear, to be mere fragments, and such as should not again be used in a permanent building where the slighter the walls the more carefully they must be built and bonded, and the wood for the most part consists of jungle-wood which, even if not attacked by dry rot, is not of such a nature as should be made use of in a permanent building, and from my experience in the dismantling of old buildings constructed as the College seems to have been, the value of the materials will probably do but little more than cover the cost of demolition.

11. Under the circumstances, and taking into consideration the fact that Government purpose to purchase the site and to give a fair valuation for the existing building, it appears to me that it would be far more economical and satisfactory to erect a building somewhat similar to the Court-house at Tanjore on a site other than that of the existing College, than to alter the existing building and to add to it in the manner proposed by Mr. Chisholm.

12. There are two sites available, but each has certain disadvantages. The one is to the north of the road from Tanjore to Combaconum with a frontage of 200 yards along the road, and consists of a plateau of waste or partially cultivated ground, the cost of which would probably not exceed Rupees 450.

200 by 72 yards about 4½ feet above level of adjacent paddy fields.

13. The space available is somewhat limited, as the building itself would occupy 63 yards by 23¼ and would leave only 100 or 120 by 72 yards for a play-ground. The area could be enlarged by taking up a portion of a garden to the east of the site for a further distance of from 100 to 250 yards along the road side, and would include a tank; the cost of the garden would probably be about Rupees 900. The plateau is bounded on the north and west sides by paddy fields, and might be extended northwards from a width of 50 yards along the play-ground (which would then be about 120 by 120 yards) by excavating a tank in the paddy fields in rear of the new building; the cost would probably be about Rupees 3,000 in all. This site, though only just on the outskirts of the town of Combaconum, is nearly half a mile further from the Brahmin's quarter than the existing College, which is about three-eighths or half a mile from that quarter. The other site is about quarter of a mile still further from the Brahmin's quarter and is in the Kaliana Ramen Tope, which has a frontage of 176 yards along a cross road from the Tanjore and Combaconum road southwards, and which it is proposed shortly to connect with Road No. 15 from Needamungalum. This site is covered with fine trees and has a park-like appearance, and extends for a distance of 500 or 600 yards eastward from the road, and hence ample accommodation could be obtained for a play-ground in it. If

50 by 100.

About 3½ feet above paddy fields.

about 10 acres of this land were taken up for the College the cost of the site would probably be Rupees 2,500, and the cost of a College built on the plan of the Tanjore Court-house, with the modifications suggested in paragraph 8, would amount to Rupees 70,000 in all.

176 by 275 yards.

No. 95. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

I HAD an opportunity on my recent tour in Tanjore of visiting the Government College at Combaconum, which it is proposed to re-build or re-model in consequence of the insecure and insufficient character of the accommodation afforded by the existing structure.

II.—The site of the present building is so beautiful, convenient, and congenial, situated as it is on the banks of the Cauvery, surrounded by fine trees and a spacious meadow, that I cannot see the least motive for abandoning it in favour of any other position, but rather many reasons for retaining it.

III.—If the Government, as I hope, should determine to abide by the present site, the question presents itself whether to re-construct the building entirely on a different spot in the same site, or to re-construct it entirely on the same spot, or to repair, modify, and enlarge the old building.

IV.—I do not think that a better spot could be selected than the present one. It is on the bank of the river, which is higher than the level of the ground further back, and it enjoys the coolness of the flowing water and the shade of the trees by the side of the stream. The only advantage in placing a new building on a different spot would be that until the new building was completed the old one would be available without disturbance for the use of the school. But arrangements could, I understand, be made by which if the present building is in part retained, the whole building need not be completely evacuated at the same time, but that such a portion could always be reserved for occupancy as would be essentially useful in conjunction with temporary sheds, such as are, in fact, in use at the present moment.

V.—If the building is not to be re-constructed on a different spot it appears to me that there is good ground for not removing and destroying the present building entirely. There are portions of the existing structure both roomy and substantial, while the whole is erected on a very solid brick platform which must have alone cost a large sum of money, and which affords an excellent foundation above the level of the highest floods. The Government Architect assures me that by retaining the greater portion of the old house and re-modelling it according to the plan submitted by him, a considerable saving may be effected compared with the cost of a new Collegiate building.

VI.—On the whole the impression left on my mind after a careful inspection of the premises and site, and after discussing the question with the persons locally interested, is that the present site and the present building, as far as it will go, should be retained; that the proposed plan for a restored and embellished building should be adopted definitively; and that the work should be prosecuted at once.

VII.—I would therefore propose that directions should be given to the Government Architect to prepare a detailed plan of the building, of which a sketch has

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th January 1872.

already received the general approval of Government, and that Mr. Chisholm should be charged to prepare a detailed estimate in conjunction with the Executive Engineer of the range, whose co-operation and concurrence in this part may be considered desirable in order to avoid future misunderstanding and controversies.

In order to carry out these instructions Mr. Chisholm should be empowered to proceed at his earliest convenience to Combaconum.

(Signed) NAPIER.

MADRAS,
6th December 1871.

I entirely concur.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" J. D. SIM.

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1872, No. 49.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 5.

Public Works G. O., No. 12, dated 3rd April 1871.

THE Government resolve to retain the site now occupied by the Combaconum College and to restore and embellish the present building in the manner proposed by the Consulting Architect and shown in the sketch plan which received the general approval of Government in Proceedings of the 27th March 1871, No. 84, in the Educational Department.

2. The Consulting Architect will accordingly be requested to prepare detailed plans, and, in conjunction with the Executive Engineer of the Combaconum Range, to frame detailed estimates of the cost of restoration for the sanction of Government. Mr. Chisholm will take the earliest opportunity, without interfering with the completion of the plans and estimates for the General Post Office and the new Telegraph Office, of proceeding to Combaconum with a view to the preparation of the plans and estimates.

3. The remarks and suggestions of the late Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division, contained in his report printed with these Proceedings, as to the condition and improvement of the existing building, will no doubt be found useful in estimating the cost of restoration, and they should accordingly receive consideration.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To R. F. Chisholm, Esq.
To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Educational Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 96

Minute by H.E. the President.

I had an opportunity on my recent Jun-
ket in Sanjoe of visiting the government
College at Contraconuma which is it is
proposed to rebuild or remodel
in consequence of the miserable and
insufficient character of the accomodation
afforded by the existing structure.
H.E. The site of the present building
is a beautiful, convenient and congenial
situated as it is on the banks of the
Causeway surrounded by fine trees and
a spacious meadow. That I cannot see
the least justice for abandoning it
in favour of any other position but

rather many reasons for
retaining it.

III. If the Govt as I hope shall
determine to abide by the present
site the question presents itself
whether to reconstruct the building entirely
on a different slot in the same site, or
to reconstruct it entirely on the same
slot, or to repair, modify and
enlarge the old building.

IV. I don't think that a better slot
could be selected than the present one.
It is on the bank of the River which
is higher than the land of the
ground further back and is supp

the coolness of the flowing water and
the shade of the trees by the side of the
stream. The only advantage in placing
a new building on a different slot would
be that until the new building
was completed the old one would
be available without any interference
for the use of the slot. But
arrangements could, I understand, be
made by which if the present
building is in part retained, the whole
building need not be completely
evacuated at the same time but
that such a portion could always
be reserved for occupancy as
would be essentially useful in

conjunction with temporary ~~—~~ Sheds such as are, in fact, in use at the present moment.

V. If the building is not to be reconstructed on a different spot it appears to me that there is good ground for not removing and destroying the present building entirely. There are portions of the existing structure left standing and substantial while the whole is erected on a very solid brick platform which must have alone cost a large sum of money and which affords an excellent foundation above the level of the highest floors.

The Government Architect opines that by retaining the greater portion of the old house and remodelling it according to the plan submitted by ~~Mr.~~ ~~Chisholm~~ him a considerable saving may be effected compared with the cost of a new Collegiate building.—

VI. On the whole the impression left on my mind after a careful inspection of the premises and Site and after discussing the question with the persons locally interested is that the present site and the present building, as far as it will go,

should be retained, that the authorized plan for a restored and embellished building should be adopted definitively and that the work should be prosecuted at once.

II. I would therefore propose that directions should be given to the Government architect to prepare a detailed plan of the building of which a sketch has already received the general approval of Government and that Mr. Chisholm should be charged to prepare a detailed estimate

in conjunction with the Executive Engineer of the Range whose cooperation concurrence ~~will be necessary~~ in this part may be considered desirable in order to avoid future misunderstandings and controversies.

In order to carry out these instructions Mr. Chisholm should be empowered to proceed at his earliest convenience to Combaconum.

Madras. Decr. 6. 1851.

I have &c.

Sd/ [illegible]

Sd/

Public Works Depart.t

No. 49

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 9th Decr 72

Read the following

From The Superintending Engr. 6th Dn. } M.E. No. 5130/9th Sept.r 71

Minute by the Right Honble the President } dated 1st Dec.r 71

The Government resolve to retain the site now occupied by the Combaconum College and to restore and embellish the present building in the manner proposed by the Consulting Architect and shown in the Sketch plan which received the general approval of Government in Proceedings of the 27th March

Public Works 1871 Depart.t
Opn offices for January

No. 5836

Minute by
The Right Honorable the
President.

Dated 1st December
Received 8th " } 1871

Remit to the Superintending Engr. 6th Dn.
for Report
By Order
Chief Secretary

No. 49. 9th Decr 72.

No 95

March 1871, No 84, in the Educational Department.

P.W. G.O. No 12 of 13th April 1871.

The Consulting Architect will accordingly be requested to prepare detailed plans, and, in conjunction with the Executive Engineer of the Combaconum Range to frame detailed Estimates of the cost of restoration for the sanction of Government. Mr Rickholm will take the earliest opportunity, without interfering with the completion of the Plans and Estimates for the General Post Office and the new Telegraph Office, of proceeding to Combaconum with a view to the preparation

of

No 11

of the plans and Estimates.

The remarks and suggestions of the late Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division contained in his report printed with these Proceedings as to the condition and improvement of the existing building will no doubt be found useful in estimating the cost of restoration, and they should accordingly receive consideration.

H. 15 Dec

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To
P. F. Rickholm Esqre
Supg Engr 6th Dn
Controller P.W.A.
Educational Dept

Desp 10/1/72

D/Sec/4291/5836

Govt of [1872] 311

PUBLIC WORKS.

To R. F. Chisholm Esqre

Dated

Recd. Encl. 2

G. O., 9th Jany 72 No. 49

Nos. 94 & 96

Combaconum College

Paying orders on the
letter from the Inspg
Offr 5th Dn. regarding
the Combaconum Colly