

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 69	Press Mis.
133-35	
Dated 11. 1.	1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled*69/69*

the active of the inf. which will be seen, at a glance,

N^o 250

Consulting Architect Office
Madras 10th November 1871

From

R. S. Chisholm Esq. F.R.S.B. et.
Consulting Architect to Government

To

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W. Dept.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following Report on the progress of the work and Restorations being carried out at the old Palace of Peromala Rajah at Madurai. My last Report on this subject was dated the 11th March 1871.

Vault at the West end of the Court Yard.

The method employed to lie in this Vault and the removal of the broken portions mentioned in my last report have been quite successful, there is no sign of movement of any kind, and the work is sounder and probably more lasting than when first erected.

The exterior facade has been entirely completed with the exception of the stone bases to the Columns, work now in active progress. The whole of the exterior of the Vault has been replastered, which will
be, at a glance,

has been fine plastered, and coloured according to original models, and surface is on almost equal in extent to the old Colouring. The latter when viewed at a proper distance presents that peculiar "bloom" so characteristic of Oriental Colouring and to my eye is as pleasing as any other system of polychromatic decoration with which I am acquainted. There is a peculiarity about this system of Colouring worth mentioning; Only the crude colors are employed, such as Red, Blue, Yellow, Orange, Green, and black, but there are invariably laid on so as to balance and neutralize the general effect; in a row of leaves for instance, primary and secondary tints will be used alternately, such as red & green. The effect when seen at a distance being a tint, or the same effect will be produced by coloring the leaves in triads of Red, Yellow, and Blue; but I know of no case where the primaries are first mixed and then laid on as a tertiary tint. If a richer effect is desired a primary will alternate with a primary such as Red & Blue; resulting in the effect of purple. This system of Colouring probably arose from the few pigments employed, Indigo, Green, and the ochres, raw, & burnt, but from it arose a very peculiar and important effect an artificial aerial perspective. All the colors, near the eye are of the brightest, but they fade as they recede until they resolve themselves.

themselves into a general neutral bloom which an artist would call "texture". The importance of such a system to describe vastness of space, will readily be seen.

A small quantity of internal plaster work and painting, yet remains to be completed in the interior.

New Municipal Office

The new Offices for the municipality have been completed, and will be ready for use as soon as the doors and windows have been fastened.

They have now the following

rooms;

- 1 Entrance Hall
- 2 Board Room
- 3 Clerk's Room
- 4 Store Room

The Municipality have expressed their satisfaction in having obtained these Offices, and it is their intention, I believe to apply to me for designs for suitable furniture.

New Court to the South West

This room has been enclosed by an additional wall partially replastered and will I trust be shortly in a condition to allow the Judge to move in.

which will
win, at a glance,

General Remarks

As His Excellency The Governor only recently inspected the Palace works, it would be superfluous for me to make any general descriptive remarks, I would beg leave however to place it on record that in my opinion no more money should be spent on decorative works until the whole structure is rendered safe and durable.

Only lately during heavy rain a large piece of masonry, nearly a ton in weight, fell from one of the side arcades and several other portions are in a most critical condition although little damage is done to the building by such accidents they are calculated to shake the confidence of the public, who are not in a position to judge of the adequacy of the preservative measures employed. For this portion of the work, a reliable estimate might be framed by the S. P. W. on any specifications.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant.

B. H. Crookall

Resident Architect to Government.

Public Works Department
Pro. of Govt. Secy
No. 5426.

From
The Resident Architect
to Government

Dated 10th November
Received 13th 1871

No. 250.

Report of the
progress of the works
and restorations being
carried out at the
old Palace of
Tirumala Nair
at Madras.

11 November

No. 135

Received 62 Dec 11/71

Minute by His Ex. the Governor

As I recently have had
the opportunity of inspect-
ing the work of the
Maiden Palace in
company with Mr.
Christie, it may be
right that I should
record my opinion as to
the progress which has
been made and as to the
course that should be
pursued in future.

II In order to render the
subject more transparent
to the Members of Govt
and to save the trouble
of referring to past
Correspondence I may
be permitted to offer
a brief description of the
building in connection
with the accompany-
ing sketch which will
explain, at a glance,

A.A.

J.D.S.
A.D.

What has been done
And what, in my
opinion, ought to be done.

III The group of build-
ings called Governor's
Place, as we now possess
them, embody the
following portions more
or less distinct from
each other.

(1.) A great Court, marked
on the sketch with its
dependencies including
its surrounding porticoes
B.B. two Square Halls
C.C. a Wagon Driveway
vestibule D. a large circular
Hall under a great dome
E. and a considerable
area divided by rows
of columns into spaces
of various forms and
dimensions under
dormer or vaulted
roofs. F. F.

(2.) A row of large rooms

at present three in
number, behind the
great circular Hall
which are marked in
the sketch G. G.
(3) A great oblong vaulted
Hall with lateral aisles
which are divided into
two stories H. H.

(4) A small circular
Building covered by a
dome and marked I
attached to the oblong
Hall.

(5) A range of rooms out-
side the main walls of
the building near the
present entrance to the
great Court. J. J.

IV. The works undertaken by
Mr. Christian during the
last two years have had
two objects: the restoration
of ruinous and danger-
ous portions of the build-
ing and the restoration
of the mechanical works.

of the old mural
painting, or decorative
work. Both operations
were necessary in order
to convince the Gov.
and the Public that
the expenditure of Gov.
Funds proposed could
be rendered both useful
and ornamental.

The mechanical
restorations to which I
refer provided for the
following objects:

(1) For the repair and
security of the principal
facade of the great
Court, of which a Photo-
graph is enclosed, ex-
hibiting its former
condition. This facade
extends in front of the
Wagon built vestibule
and of the Great Circular
Hall used as the Court
of the Civil and Session

Judge St. Laurent
are imminent ruin
and if it had fallen
it would have shown
after it the Vestibule
and the Hall itself.
The restoration was in-
dispensable and it has
been happily accomplish-
ed. The Wagon Shop
roof of the Vestibule has
been secured by iron
ties, ironing pillars
have been supplied, the
roof has been reinforced
with light, a massive
masonry which had
fallen out of the central
arch of the facade has
been replaced, the great
Corridor has been restored
and the facade towards
the Great Court has been
secured against further
decay by being replaster-
ed after the old models.

These works constructed,
in part, at an elevation
of more than eighty feet
under very critical con-
ditions reflect much
credit on the Govt. Archi-
tect and his Native
Subordinates whose courage
must often have been
severely tried.

Regarding the question
in a material or
utilitarian point of
view this work saved
the present Court House.

(2) Two rooms &c.
behind the Court House
have been repaired.
These rooms are destined
eventually, it is hoped,
for the accommodation
of the Collector but they
will be required mean-
while for the use of
the Civil and Session

Court.

Court which cannot
continue to sit with
inconvenience under the
great dome while the
works are being pro-
secuted in its immedi-
ate neighbourhood.

II. The decorative restora-
tions embrace the follow-
ing objects:

(1) The repainting of the
brasson shaped vault
in the ^{entrance} ~~entrance~~ of which I have spoken
above.

(2) The painting of a
small dome in the
cellared space marked

3. The painting of the
ceiling of the two apart-
ments intended for the
temporary accommoda-
tion of the Civil and
Session Court. &c.

I cannot affirm that
these restorations of

of colour will recon-
mend themselves to
the taste of every
spectator in every
particular but I think
them, on the whole
extremely successful
and they are generally
admired. The old method
of decoration, of which
excellent specimens
remained, has been for
the most part, respected
and I am bound to
state that the only
colour which at first
sight offended my eye
is one that is distinctly
sanctioned by precedent.
In a contemporary build-
ing, no doubt much
will be gained by
experience in this
matter. The restoration

3.

of colour in a native
structure has never
before been attempted
under European direction
in this Presidency and
the less spiritual Native
has almost forgotten the
arts of his forefathers.
(4) The restoration of the
plaster figures and
patterns in the ~~vestibule~~
D. ~~vestibule~~ and on
the facade of the great
Corbel. The figures are
grotesques of various
kinds in heraldic or
human shapes; they do
not include any of the
^{popular} ~~popular~~ dignities of the
Court. The old models
have been adhered to
and if the execution is
inferior to the work of
the ancient artists
this defect is scarcely
apparent to the eye.

an account of the great
elevation at which these
objects are, for the most
part, placed. In modelling
as in painting a
decline in the style of
the Native artifice
is to be lamented but
these very works are a
practical school in
which he may receive
his constant instruction.
Such being in a few
words the mechanical
and decorative lessons
learned out for
Government by Mr.
Chisholm in the last two
years I think it right
to state that they have
been effected at a very
moderate outlay.
The whole expenditure
to the end of the current
financial year will be
Rs 20,000 of which

approximately Rs 15,000
have been appropriated
to substantial repairs
and paintwork ornament.
It is hoped that these
figures may be satisfac-
tory to some who have
expressed an apprehen-
sion that the Government
in proceeding with these
designs may be led to
neglect the solid interests
of the country.
VIII. In addition to the
works conducted for
Govt by Mr. Chisholm he
has directed the adap-
tation of an external
portion of the building
marked J. J. for the
Municipality of Madras
which has shown an
intelligent and patriotic
interest in the restoration
of a National Monument.
The Municipal Officer

Thus provided that
Cost about Rs. 3000.
The same amount of
accommodation could
not have been obtained
for a smaller charge
in any other way.
The Municipal Com-
mission of Madras
have thus helped the
Govt in a good work
gratified their own
taste and done no
injustice to their public
trust.

It now remains to sub-
mit my impressions
with reference to the
manner in which
the works at the
Madras Palace should
be conducted in future
and the objects to which
they should be directed.

4.

The works of restoration
should be conducted
patiently and gradually
with the spirit which has
animated the restora-
tion of our Cathedrals in
England, by the contin-
uous application of
small annual grants.
Persons who are now
serving in India will
see the good but suc-
cessive government may
be satisfied if they
contribute to it. It has
now been shown that
the old structure can
be rendered secure
and can be rendered
ornamental. We should
work in the same
patient spirit. I would
advise Govt to appro-
priate the usual annual
grant Rs. 10,000. for
next year and that
it should be, exclusively,

employed according to
Mr Chisholm's advice, for
the repairs and security
of the most ruinous
parts of the building.
Mr Chisholm should be
called upon to submit a
report stating the specific
objects to which these
repairs should be directed;
and the Department
of Public Works should
be instructed to assist
him in the preparation
of plans and estimates
for this purpose.
It will be remarked,
however, that if the
ordinary Govt Grant
of Rs. 10,000 be appropriated
merely to the repair of
ruinous portions of the
building, which are in a
great measure devoted
for the portions most
available for immediate
public use, little would

be done for some time.
Towards the main
object we have at heart,
that is the provision of
suitable, convenient and
secure accommodation
for the public offices of
the Madras District.
The Govt may think it
advisable therefore
(1) To lay down some
fixed plan for the
appropriation of various
portions of the building
and
(2) to consider whether
some measure may not
be found for accelerating
the object in view with-
out imposing any charge
on the public revenue.
The Palace of Madras
is large enough to hold
many public offices,
but some respect must
be shown for the design
and proportions of the
building. Some sacrifice

of architectural effect.
must be made to utility
but that sacrifice should
not be greater than is
indispensable. It appears
to me that seven public
offices may be consequently
accommodated without
any serious detriment
to artistic beauty.

- (1) The Collector's Catchery.
- (2) The Court of the Civil
and Sessions Judges.
- (3) The District Munsiff's
Court. (4) The Department
of Public Works. (5) The
Forest Department. (6) The
Sub-Magistrate's Court.
- (7) The Taluk Catchery.

XII In the Collector's Catchery
the following provision
should be made.

The Collector should
have the whole area
behind the great Circular
Hall, now occupied by
three large rooms and
all the pillared space

5.

to the south of the great
Circular Hall. Of the
three large rooms, if opened
to two would remain
as they are but the
largest (which is about
70 feet long and 30
feet broad) would be
divided into three.
In this way five spacious
secure and separate
rooms would be avail-
able to this Office for his
own use, for the Treasury,
for the Registration Office,
for the Records and
for his Assistant. The
pillared space, which
can easily be rendered
light, airy and weather
tight would form sitting
and working room for
any number of clerks.

XIII The great Muz Hall
H. would be appropriated
for the purpose of a Civil
and Sessions Court.

for which it is better
suited than any building
in the Country. The sides
of the ^{ground} floor
would be divided into
Small Consulting and
writing rooms for the
Vatiksies. The aisles above
would be used for the
Court records. The Small
Contiguous Circular
building, with its depen-
dencies, would supply a
private apartment for
the Judge. The whole of
the pillared space to
the north of the great
Circular Hall would
be given over to the clerks
of the Court from which
this space is easily
accessible. The District
Munsiff's Court would be
placed in the Square
Hall on the north side
of the great Court - in

- with the Civil and
Sessions Court by the
surrounding porticoes.
- XV The Department of
Public Works would be
placed in the Square
Hall on the South side
of the great Court, in
easy communication
with the Collectors Office
at the adjacent level.
- XVI The First Department
would be placed in the
gallery on the South
side of the Court between
the Collectors Office and
the Department of Public
Works.
- XVII The Sub-Metropolitan Court
would be placed in the
gallery between the
District Munsiff's Court
and the pillared space
occupied by the Estab-
lishment of the Civil and
Sessions Court.
- XVIII The Talook Batching

would be placed between
the District. House
Court and the Municipal
Office.

No doubt these arrange-
ments would necessitate
the erection of low par-
titions cutting the vista
of the galleries and
Porticos here and there
but enough clear space
would be left to show
the majesty of the edifice
and the restoration which
is contemplated has always
been presented as an
economical and useful
as well as an artistic
enterprise.

Under the scheme sub-
mitted the great Circular
Hall, which I presume
to have been the Darbar
Hall of the ancient
Sovereigns, would remain
unappropriated to any

(6)

purely official purpose
I think it should be
reserved as a vacant
space to separate the
domain of the Collector
from the domain of the
High Court. It would
be available for public
receptions and ceremonies,
for public meetings,
lectures and other pur-
poses of that nature.
When the work of restora-
tion has been completed
it might afford an
appropriate position for
a commemorative
Statue of the Queen.
While the regular
appropriation of Rs. 10,000
due to the work in the
course of next year is
being used for the
repair of those portions
of the building which
might at any time
collapse under the

influence of the weather
it would be desirable
to provide an extraordinary
supply of funds to secure
the Collector and the
Judge as soon as possible
in the possession of their
respective apartments.
This object can be
attained in the following
manner. The Collector's
Cutchery is at present
placed in an old building
belonging to Govt. No. 1.
Without antiquarian
interest but more crowded
and inconvenient than
could be well imagined
by those who have never
visited it. This building,
which must at any
late be soon vacated
as altogether unsuitable
is fortunately so placed so
to have a considerable
value in the market

as a Native residence
as a bazar for goods.
The Acting Collector
values it at more than
Rs. 20,000. I would
advise that the Govt.
should direct this
building to be sold
and that the price
obtained should be
carried to the account
of the restoration of the
Palace, but particularly
for the purpose of com-
pleting the quarters
destined for the Collector
and the Judge. In the
Act of Sale a right
might be stipulated on
the part of Govt. to
remain as tenants
in the building, at an
appropriate rent, for a
period not exceeding
two years. The purchase
money would thus

be immediately available
while the Cutchery would
not be disturbed before
the new accommodation
was prepared.

~~XXXI~~
I wish it was possible
for me to predict how
long it may take to
accomplish the work
on which the Govt. has
embarked or what
aggravate on the way the
scheme may eventually
involve. After some
of the most dangerous
portions of the building
have been secured in
the course of next year
and the quarters for
the Collector and Judge
have been, at least,
provisionally set in
order, there will remain
a long series of repairs
and decorations throughout
the interior: after that

(7)

the pavements, the ex-
ternal facade and the
towers and pinnacles
will all have to be
objects of careful study
and attention, finally
the vicinity and
approaches must be
cleared and brought
into harmony with the
restored edifice.
These works may easily
occupy a period of 15
years and ~~at least~~
the application of two
lacs of rupees: but the
time need not be
judged and the cost
will not exceed the
charge for a new Collection
Cutchery, new Civil and
Sessions Court and
sufficient accommoda-
tion for the other sub-
ordinate departments
provided for, which

would undoubtedly
realise the same sum
at present rates.

~~XIII~~ Though it would be
premature at this
moment to under-
take great expendi-
ture in buying up the

234.
houses which, on two
sides, approach close
to the walls of the
Palace, there is one
Native house which it
would be of importance
to purchase at once,
as it abuts on blocks
up the external entrance
to the two rooms which
are to be temporarily
used as the Civil and
Sessions Court. The Acting
Collector should be
instructed to negotiate
for the acquisition of
this house and to

defray the cost from
the funds provided
by the sale of the old
Cutchery. The price
will be no greater
matter.

~~XIV~~ In conclusion I wish
to express my sense
of the ability and
exertions of the Govt.
Architect in giving
effect to the instructions
of Govt. in regard to
this work and the
gratification I have
felt in witnessing
the interest which the
Superintending Engineer,
Colonel Roberts; the
Acting Collector, Mr.
McIntosh and the
Native Community
have evinced in the
progress of the
undertaking. Nagpur.

Nagpur, 20th Decr.
1871.

Plong. architect
to Government } (H.C. No 250 of 10 Nov 77)
Minute by the Right
Hon^{ble} the President - (H.C. No. 2720 Nov 77)



2. The arrangements proposed

March 21st 1877
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proposed by His Excellency
for the appropriation of
various portions of the
Palace will be adopted.

3 Mr Chisholm
will with reference to
Para 9 report the manner
in which he would recom-
mend that the grant of
Rupees 10,000 to be made
available for expenditure
next year should be utilized.

4 Orders will
be issued in the Financial
Department for giving
effect to the suggestion
made in Para 21 with
a view to providing funds
for the special purpose of
completing the accommodation
in

17
in the Palace for the
Collector and the Judge.

5 Para 23.1 will
be referred to the Revenue
Department for the issue
of the necessary orders
to the Acting Collector.

[Signature]
Dec 30th 72

[Signature]
70 The Long Architects
6 J. Eng: 8 D. J. With sketch Dec 29th 72
27 Public Dept
21 Rev Dept
Financial Controller
Editors Table
Dec 12-1-72

20
Letter from the Consulting Architect
dated 10th November 1871. No 250.

Reports contained
in schedule Remarks
N.

Circulated for orders
with reference to Mr Chisholm's
General Remarks.

November 1871.

J. Col AR
Secretary to Government.

24-2-1872
7-9-16 MT ✓
15-7-17 BE

W. H. P.

105 5426 15925

Gobt. of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Consulting Architect

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 11th Jan'y 1872 No. 69-

Nos. 133 @ 136

*Teromala Hills
Place at Madras. Paper
plans on papers relating to
the restoration of Teromala
Hills Palace at
Dura*