

(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.	1359	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
231-238.		
Dated	15-5-	18 48.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15th May 1873

No. 231. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, dated Calcutta, 8th April 1873, No. 153 B. C:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. MURRAY, Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated Calcutta, 13th March 1873, No. 505.

REFERRING to the correspondence ending with this office No. 58 of the 4th May last, on the subject of the new building at Madras which has been designed for the accommodation of the offices of this department, I have the honour to annex copies of the latest correspondence and orders of the Madras Government in the matter.

2. When it was first intended to locate the new Telegraph Office on the site known as Abercrombie's Battery, it was stated that the building would face the sea. On this assumption the distribution of the accommodation was arranged with special reference to the requirements of a house to be occupied partly as an office and partly as a residence.

3. Since the mode of apportioning the space was thus decided on, the Government Architect has, for some reason with which I am not acquainted, changed his intention, and determined to make the principal front of the building face the south instead of the east.

4. On learning this, I addressed a telegram (Annexure B.) to the Madras Government, urging a re-consideration of this decision. My reason for using the telegram for the reference will be apparent on perusing the concluding portion of the 1st paragraph of the Order of the Madras Government, No. 428, dated 8th February 1873, (Annexure A.)

5. I have now received the reply of the Government of Madras, and beg to append a copy, (Annexure C.) It will be seen that my statement as to the necessity for revising the entire internal arrangement of the accommodation is not accepted. Nevertheless the residences and offices now designed for the west (originally south) wing must be transferred to the east (originally north) wing and *vice versa*, and similarly those designed for one end of the front block must now be transferred to the other. As the details of the two wings and of the two halves of the front block do not correspond, it will not suffice to merely re-name the rooms, but a complete change in the position of partition walls, passages, bath-rooms, etc., is essential.

6. The Abercrombie Battery is a piece of ground about 350 feet $\times$ 180 feet; of this it was apparently intended to allot to this department a space about 180 feet $\times$ 180 feet, leaving approximately 170 feet $\times$ 180 for the new building intended for the Bank of Madras. As stated above, I am not aware of the reason for the change, but it was afterwards determined to reduce the space apportioned to this department to an area of about 106 feet $\times$ 180 feet increasing the Madras Bank site to a corresponding extent. This alteration involved diverting the principal frontage of the Telegraph building from the east to the south.

7. There are now three courses open, and I solicit that the early consideration of the Government of India may be given to the subject in view to a decision being arrived at before the Post Office designs reach a more advanced stage—

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th May 1873.*

- 1.—To retain the present Telegraph Office site and arrangement of frontage, revising the interior details of the design.
 - 2.—To retain the present arrangement of the interior accommodation, reverting to the original intention as to frontage.
 - 3.—To take advantage of the opportunity of the substitution of the General Post Office for the Madras Bank on the adjacent site to entirely re-design both buildings with a view to meeting the public convenience by bringing together the public portions of both buildings.
8. There is little to be said on the first of these proposals. It is, as I have already informed the Madras Government, a necessary condition of retaining the at present intended frontage that the interior arrangements shall be designed afresh, which would doubtless involve considerable labour. In my opinion it is the least desirable of the three courses. The public rooms of the Telegraph building would face the south, those of the General Post Office either east or south, a separation which must tend to the inconvenience of persons having business with both departments.

9. The second measure is the one I have already urged on the Madras Government. It would apparently involve no trouble, and would simply be allowing things to be carried out according to the original intention and detailed plans. It would bring the Telegraph and Postal public buildings more nearly together, and is, I think, altogether preferable to the foregoing proposal.

10. But the third course is, I consider, by far the most desirable of all. It would be most unfortunate if the opportunity which now offers be not availed of to render the permanent arrangements for the accommodation of the public as perfect as possible.

11. I would accordingly suggest that the ground allotted to the two departments be bisected by a broad and lofty public hall running from North Beach Road on the east to second Line Beach on the west. On one side of this hall would be the booking office, etc., for telegrams, and on the other the various registration, inquiry and other departments of the Post Office; the respective buildings of the two departments extending southwards and northwards from the sides of the hall.

ANNEXURE B.

CLASS T.

Telegram from Director General of Telegraphs, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Calcutta, 22nd February 1873.

Referring to Madras Government, Public Works Department Order No. 184, dated 8th instant, and the sanctioned estimates for Telegraph Office. The accommodation was originally arranged on the understanding that the building was to face the east. Mr. Chisholm has since transferred the frontage to the south; this will necessitate an entire revision of the internal arrangements. To avoid delay and also the unsatisfactory result of any such necessarily makeshift adaptations, I would strongly urge that the building should face the east as originally intended.

An early reply is solicited.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th May 1873.*

ANNEXURE C.

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department.

Read the following :—

Telegram from the Director General of Telegraphs, dated 22nd February 1873, No. 6,449.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1873, No. 716.

The Director General of Telegraphs will be informed that the proposed Telegraph Office will have three fronts, but that the principal entry will be from the south. This arrangement will not, as is supposed, involve an entire revision of the internal arrangements, and the fact was distinctly intimated in the Government Order quoted by the Director General. The site of the Office is no longer open to discussion, and the design which has been approved is, under the circumstances, that which is best suited to meet the requirements of the case.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that telegraphing is an inappropriate method of discussing a subject of the nature under notice.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

FORWARDED to the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department for consideration (papers to be returned).

(By order.)

(Signed) GORDON COTTON,

Offg. Asstt. Secy. to the Government of India.

REFERRED to the Consulting Architect for report with reference to the first and third of the proposals made by the Director General of Telegraphs.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R. E.,

16th April 1873.

Secretary to Govt., P. W. D.

No. 232. From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., F. R. I., B. A., Consulting Architect to Government, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 17th April 1873, No. 324.

I HAVE the honour to return the papers forwarded to me with your memorandum dated yesterday, on the subject of the site and position of the new Telegraph Office.

2. You are aware that the only way of accommodating both the Post and Telegraph Offices on the site allotted to them is by making one face south and the other east. In the correspondence now returned the Director General of Telegraphs assumes that in consequence of the change of frontage the building must be remodelled so far as the internal distribution is concerned. As he gives no reasons why with the change of site this has become so necessary, I conclude that the Director General is attaching undue importance to the sea view and sea breeze. In his first proposal he suggests reversing the interior details of the design. Taken as a whole this would scarcely seem desirable. In the lower storey it would bring the store rooms out in lieu of the public rooms and cable offices; in the second storey the Signallers would be shut out from the breeze; in the third storey the dining-room would cover the dormitory. The only advantage I can see attending

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th May 1873.*

such a change is that two dwelling-houses would be brought on the face instead of one only. This change is most desirable, but it would involve an entire change of plan and the loss of much of the work already executed. I may mention that the rooms are well lighted and ventilated, and the prospect no worse than from any other Black Town residence.

3. The third proposition is a good one, that of amalgamating both buildings, and, if allowed a reasonable amount of latitude, I believe I could design a handsome and appropriate building; but if all the authorities concerned are to be severally satisfied, I look upon the task as a hopeless one. I may mention that externally the buildings will form a single group.

No. 233. ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1873, No. 1,359.

TELEGRAPH, No. 1.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is desirous of meeting the wishes of the Director General of Telegraphs,

but is compelled by the circumstances of the case to reject the second of the three alternative courses proposed by him.

2. A simple transfer of the accommodation now afforded between the east and west wings respectively, as suggested in paragraph 5 of his letter to the Government of India, would appear to be an easy enough matter to arrange, but it is that of the three alternatives on which he lays least stress, and the Consulting Architect does not favour it.

3. Under these circumstances His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to adopt the third proposition, which both parties concur in approving; and supplied already as Mr. Chisholm is with all information as to each detail of the separate offices, His Lordship in Council does not anticipate that he will find any such difficulty in satisfying the requirements of both departments as he would seem to anticipate. He will accordingly suspend operations on the work in hand, and submit with all despatch a sketch plan and estimate of such a building as will meet all requisitions as to space and arrangements already made either by the Postmaster General or Director General of Telegraphs.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Director General of Telegraphs.
„ Consulting Architect.
„ District Engineer, Presidency.
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
„ Postmaster General.
„ Public Department.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th February 1873.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 183. Read the following letter from the Consulting Architect to Government, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 7th December 1872, No. 205 :—

1 Roll Tracing.
1 Estimate.

I HAVE the honour to forward you the plans and estimate for the proposed new Telegraph Office at Madras.

2. The building will be of simple construction and of lasting and substantial materials. It will face south, the eastern end being treated as the southern compartment in the Beach façade of a single group to be formed by the Telegraph Office and the New Post Office.

3. I may mention that I have sent skeleton plans of the new arrangement of the Post Office to the Postmaster, and I hope before Council meets again to forward you a rough idea of the eastern façade of both buildings.

4. I have roughly estimated the saving of amalgamating the two buildings at Rupees 50,000, and so arranged them as to admit of either being enlarged.

5. The estimate for the Telegraph Office alone amounts to Rupees 1,47,119-6-0. I roughly estimate the Post Office at Rupees 1,40,000.

No. 183A. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department, dated 14th January 1873, No. 63.

Read the following papers :—

From the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 21st November 1872, No. 37.

Referring to the Proceedings of Government, with Orders thereon, of 14th September 1872, No. 1211, and 31st October 1872, No. 1486, I am desired by the Directors to intimate that, on the urgent representation of the Chamber of Commerce, they have resolved to surrender the site on the beach allotted by Government to the Bank, for the erection on it of new premises, for the special purpose of a building for the Post Office being erected thereon.

From the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 2nd December 1872.

The Director of the Bank of Madras having, on the representation of the Chamber of Commerce, courteously relinquished their lien on the site placed at their disposal on the northern section of Abercrombie's Battery, the Chamber trust, with reference more especially to the Order of Government in the Financial Department, 14th September last, that His Excellency the Governor in Council will now be pleased to comply with the wishes of the mercantile community by sanctioning the erection of the new Post Office building on the space thus rendered available for the purpose, instead of in the immediate vicinity of the new Railway Station, as was resolved upon by the Government and recorded in their Order of the 31st ultimo.

As the Directors of the Madras Bank have relinquished the site assigned to them out of the block of land between the Stamp Office and the road intersecting Abercrombie's Battery, instructions will be issued in the Department of Public Works to the Consulting Architect to frame his design for placing the new General Post Office and the Central Telegraph Office on this site.

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public
15th May 1873.

such a change is that two dwelling-houses would be brought one only. This change is most desirable, but it would involve a loss of plan and the loss of much of the work already executed. The rooms are well lighted and ventilated, and the prospect is very fine. No other Black Town residence.

3. The third proposition is a good one, that of amalgamating the two buildings, and, if allowed a reasonable amount of latitude, I believe some and appropriate building; but if all the authorities are severally satisfied, I look upon the task as a hopeless one. Externally the buildings will form a single group.

No. 233. ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1873, 1

TELEGRAPH, No. 1.

His Excellency the Council is desirous of the Director

but is compelled by the circumstances of the case to reject alternative courses proposed by him.

2. A simple transfer of the accommodation now at the old and west wings respectively, as suggested in paragraph 5 of the report of the Architect, would appear to be an easy enough matter. That of the three alternatives on which he lays least stress, the Architect does not favour it.

3. Under these circumstances His Excellency the Governor to adopt the third proposition, which both parties have supplied already as Mr. Chisholm is with all information separate offices, His Lordship in Council does not anticipate such difficulty in satisfying the requirements of both departments. He will accordingly suspend operations and submit with all despatch a sketch plan and estimate will meet all requisitions as to space and arrangements at the Postmaster General or Director General of Telegraphs.

(True Extract.)

Secretary.

- To the Director General of Telegraphs.
- .. Consulting Architect.
- .. District Engineer, Presidency.
- .. Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- .. Postmaster General.
- .. Public Department.

Esq. S. T. Austin.

Public Works Department.

Public Works Department.

Public Works Department.

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Public Works Department.

Annexure B

Class T

To Madras

From Calcutta

Dated 22nd Feb 1873.

Words 105.

From Director Genl. of Telegraphs

To Colonel Walker

Secretary to Govt. of

Madras P.W. Dept.

Referring to Madras Government P.W.D. Order No. 184 dated 8th instant and the sanctioned Estimates for Telegraph Office. The accommodation was originally arranged on the understanding that the building was to face the East. Mr. Chisholm has since transferred the frontage to the South, this will necessitate an entire revision of the internal arrangements. To avoid delay and also the unsatisfactory result of any such necessarily makeshift adaptations, I would strongly urge that the building should face the East as originally intended.

An early reply is solicited.

Public Works Department.

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Annexure C

Public Works Department
Proceeding of the Madras Government

Read the following:

Telegram from the Director General of Telegraphs
dated 22nd February 1873. No: 6449.

Order thereon 6th March 1873, No: 716

The Director General of Telegraphs
will be informed that the proposed Telegraph
Office will have three fronts, but that
the principal entry will be from the South.
This arrangement will not, as is supposed,
involve an entire revision of the internal
arrangements, and the fact was distinctly
intimated in the G. O. quoted by the Director
General. The site of the Office is no longer
open to discussion, and the design which
has been approved is, under the circum-
stances, that which is best suited to meet
the requirements of the case.

2. His Excellency the Governor
in Council considers that telegraphing is an
inappropriate method of discussing a subject
of the nature under notice.

To the Dir Genl of Telegraphs -
1 True Extract /
1 True Copy /
J. G. W. Walker Colonel R.E.
Secy to the Govt. P.W.D.

Govt of India

1873 No. 505

13 B 12
Civil Works

Dir: G. to Telegraphs in India

9 13th March
14 14th -

No. 505

P. M. 24 39/75

No. 153
13C

In continuation of No. 58 of 4th May
last forwards latest correspondence
on the subject of the new Telegraph
Office at Madras

4256

FROM

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELEGRAPHS IN INDIA,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 13th of March 1873.

Sir,

Referring to the correspondence
ending with this Office No. 58 of the 4th
May last, on the subject of the new build-
ing at Madras which has been designed
for the accommodation of the Offices of
this Department, I have the honor to annex
copies of the latest correspondence and
orders of the Madras Government in the
matter.

2

When it was first intended
to locate the new Telegraph Office on the
site known as Abercrombie's Battery, it
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the Sea. On this assumption the distri-
bution of the accommodation was
arranged with special reference to the
requirements of a house to be occupied
partly as an Office and partly as a
residence.

3.

Since the mode of apportioning

Forwarded to the Secy of Madras in the 11th Sept
for consideration - (Copy to be returned) -

Calcutta

11th Sept 1873

Offt Secy - Secy: to the Secy of Madras

By order
Indra Prasad

the space was thus decided on, the Government Architect has, for some reason with which I am not acquainted, changed his intention and determined to make the principal front of the building face the South instead of the East.

4 On learning this, I addressed a telegram (annexure B) to the Madras Govt. urging a reconsideration of this decision. My reason for using the telegraph for the reference will be apparent on perusing the concluding portion of the 1st para of the order of the Madras Government No 428 dated 8th February 1873 (annexure A).

5 I have now received the reply of the Government of Madras and beg to append a copy. (annexure C). It will be seen that my statement as to the necessity for revising the entire internal arrangement of the accommodation is not accepted. Nevertheless, the residences and offices now designed for the West (originally South) wing must be transferred to the East (originally North) wing and vice versa and similarly those designed for one end of the front block must now be transferred to the other. As the details of

of the two wings and of the two halves of the front block do not correspond it will not suffice to merely rename the rooms, but a complete change in the position of partition walls - passages - bath rooms &c. is essential.

6 The Abercrombie Battery is a piece of ground about 350 feet x 100 feet. Of this it was apparently intended to allot to this Department a space about 180 feet x 180 feet leaving approximately 170 feet x 180 feet for the new building intended for the Bank of Madras. As stated above I am not aware of the reason for the change, but it was afterwards determined to reduce the space allotted to this Department to an area of about 106 feet x 180 feet increasing the Madras Bank site to a corresponding extent. This alteration involved diverting the principal frontage of the Telegraph building from the East to the South.

7 There are now three courses open, and I solicit that the early consideration of the Government of India may be given to the subject in view to a decision being arrived at before the

the Post office designs reach a more advanced stage.

1. To retain the present Telegraph Office site and arrangement of frontage, revising the interior details of the design.
2. To retain the present arrangement of the exterior accommodation, reverting to the original intention as to frontage.
3. To take advantage of the opportunity of the substitution of the General Post Office for the Madras Bank on the adjacent site to entirely redesign both buildings with a view to meeting the public convenience by bringing together the public portions of both buildings.

8 There is little to be said on the first of these proposals. It is, as I have already informed the Madras Government, a necessary condition of retaining the at present intended frontage that the interior arrangements shall be designed afresh which would doubtless involve considerable labor. In my opinion it is the least desirable of the three courses. The public rooms of the Telegraph Building would face

the South, those of the General Post Office either East or South, a separation which must tend to the inconvenience of persons having business with both Departments.

9 The second measure is the one I have already urged on the Madras Government. It would apparently involve no trouble and would simply be allowing things to be carried out according to the original intention and detailed plans. It would bring the Telegraph and Postal public buildings more nearly together, and is, I think, altogether preferable to the foregoing proposal.

10 But the third course is, I consider, by far the most desirable of all. It would be most unfortunate if the opportunity which now offers be not availed of to render the permanent arrangements for the accommodation of the public as perfect as possible.

11 I would accordingly suggest that the ground allotted to the two Departments be bisected by a broad and lofty public hall running from North Beach road on the East to

Second

second Line Beach on the West. On one side
of this hall would be the Booking Office
for Telegrams, and on the other the
various Registration, Enquiry and other
Departments of the Post Office. The res-
pective buildings of the two Departments
extending Southwards and Northwards
from the sides of the Hall.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obed^t Serv^t

D. Murray Lt Colonel
M. J. Dir Genl of Telegraphs.

No 1359 B. D.

Referred to the
Consulting Architect
your report with
reference to the 1st
and 3^d of the proposals
made by the Di-
rector General of
Telegraphs.

Thomas Lloyd Col. R.E.
Secy. to Govt.
P.W. &

16 April /73

Ct 231

P.W. 1873 Report
P.W. of Govt. of India
No. 2382.

From.

The Govt. of India.

Date of 8th } April 1873.
Recd of 14th }

No. 153 B.C.

Encl.

Forwards for con-
sideration regarding
the new Telegraph
office at Madras.

Referred.
No. 135975. May /73.

No. 135975. B.C.

No. of the Madras Govt.

Read the following:

From the Govt. of India (P.W. No. 153 B.C. of 8 April /73)
" Encl. Architect - 324 of 17 -

His Excellency the
Governor in Council
is desirous of meeting
the wishes of the Di-
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but is compelled by the
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case ~~altogether~~ to reject
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alternative courses pro-
posed by him.

A simple transfer
of the accommodation
now afforded between

the East and West Wings
respectively, as insisted
on in para 5 of his
letter to the Government
of India would appear
to be an easy enough
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it is that of the three
alternatives on which
he lays least stress;
and the Consulting
Architect does not
favour it.

Under these cir-
-cumstances His Execul-
-lency the Governor in
Council resolves to
adopt the third pro-
-position which both
parties concur in ap-
-proving. And supplied

already as Mr. Chisholm
is with all information
as to each detail of the
separate offices His
Lordship in Council
does not anticipate
that he will find
any such difficulty
in satisfying the
requirements of both
Departments, as he
would seem to an-
-ticipate. He will
accordingly suspend
operations on the work
in hand, and sub-
-mit with all despatch
a Sketch Plan and
Estimate of such a
building as will meet
all requisitions as to

space and arrangements
already made either by
the Post Master General
or Director General of
Telegraphs.

G.M.W.

C/pt 2382 + 2439

Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Director-General of
Telegraphs

India

Secy.

Encl. 2

G.O. 15th Aug 1359.

No. 231/233

New Telegraph Office
at Madras - Passing
orders on papers re-
lating to the accommo-
dation to be provided
in the new office.

N-231. 33.

2nd 6-11/13

Post Master General