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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3033 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

283-284

Dated 16-12-1873 ~~195~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th December 1873.

No. 283. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 3rd July 1873 :—

From the Rev. T. BLISS, Principal and Secretary of the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum, to the Honourable W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Ootacamund, 2nd July 1873.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Lawrence Asylum to address to you the following :—

2. I beg to remind you that the Government in their Order of 11th December 1872, No. 345, Educational Department, were pleased to sanction the appointment of four additional Serjeants to the Lawrence Asylum, and beg to state that the buildings not having proper accommodation for these men, the Committee thought of providing for them quarters in the adjoining workshops of the Public Works Department; but these workshops having no basement, the walls being thin and the corrugated iron roof of a low pitch, Dr. Pearl and Captain Morant (Members of the Committee) objected to their appropriation on the ground that the buildings would be unwholesome for Europeans and their families to live in.

3. The Committee then selected certain other buildings near and on the same level as the Male Asylum main building, which had been erected for wash-houses and latrines to the new Female Asylum planned by Mr. Chisholm, and were originally used for the accommodation of the carpenters employed on the Male Asylum. They are now occupied by wheelbarrows and timber which the Committee believe could bear without deterioration exposure to the open air.

4. These buildings have never been made over to the Committee, and Captain Morant found himself unable to transfer them without the sanction of Government. The Committee, therefore, solicit sanction to their transfer.

5. They consist of four spacious chambers, each 38 feet 8 inches long by 18 feet 5 inches broad, on the Plan A enclosed.

6. I have the honour to state that the Committee propose to locate two of the Serjeants and their families in Chambers Nos. 1 and 2. They believe that these chambers could be converted into comfortable quarters by appropriate partition walls, and that the offices required by each family could be constructed in the form of lean-tos to the passage 3 and 4, and that every convenience would thereby be obtained at a comparatively moderate expense, pending the reorganization of the staff of the Asylum and the erection of specific Serjeants' quarters.

7. These chambers are on a solid basement raised several feet above the ground, are of brick-in-mud with tiled roof, and are extremely airy; and require only to be floored, partitioned off, and have doors opened in the walls. I beg, however, to state that Captain Morant fears that the walls will not bear piercing for doors, but the Committee confidently expect that his skill will obviate this difficulty if it arises.

8. I have the honour to inform you that the Committee apply for these chambers in consequence of the arrangements already made for the housing of two of the Serjeants and their families being found to be unsuitable. Those

arrangements were adopted in ignorance of all the results which would accrue from them, and in consequence of the objections to the location of the Serjeants in the workshops, and the difficulty of securing the other buildings referred to.

9. It was understood that the two Serjeants who required quarters could be put in Ward 2 (in Plan B enclosed) in the Male Asylum main building without diminishing the accommodation of the Institution, and it was believed that the boys turned out of No. 2 (in consequence of its occupation by the Serjeants) could be accommodated without crowding in the other wards, and that the emptied ward could be turned temporarily into proper Serjeants' quarters. These anticipations have turned out fallacious.

10. Screens of dungry stretched on frames have been put into No. 2, and a passage is left for the boys in Ward 1 to reach the Latrine M. at night. One of the Serjeants in Ward 2 turns out to be a married man and he expects shortly to have his wife and two grown-up daughters from the plains; it is obvious that the latter will not be decently accommodated at night with only a screen (pervious to sound) between them and their parents, and that it is improper that the Latrine M., which is the only one available, should be used by them and by the boys in Ward 1.

11. Captain Morant proposes to get over these objections by the alterations in red ink in Plan B.

12. To these alterations the Committee think there are numerous objections; the external walls of the Asylum would have to be pierced to project the bath-rooms; the main rooms would be apparently lighted from the bath-rooms; and it does not seem proper that the boys in Ward 1 should obtain access to their dormitory from the open air, and it is hardly convenient that a passage should be converted into a privy and the clearings of the privy carried through a dormitory.

13. Captain Morant's alterations are proposed at a cost of Rupees 639, and he considers that the conversion of Chambers 1 and 2 in Plan A into quarters will cost Rupees 2,000. Even if the latter were the cost, the Committee consider that the appropriation of the chambers would be the preferable plan; but they do not think that the cost will be nearly so large as suggested, because they contemplate the work being done by their own agency in a less finished style than it would be executed by the Department of Public Works, but in a manner they believe efficient.

14. With regard to the Serjeants remaining in the main building, the Committee remark in fine that it diminishes the proper accommodation afforded for Asylum boys; that at present the arrangements made fail to secure decency; and that the arrangements proposed by Captain Morant will not remove the former objection and will only obviate the latter in some respects.

15. I have the honour to enclose two plans, marked A and B.

TRANSFERRED to the Department Public Works.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 284. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1873, No. 3,033.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 7.

As the resumption of work with the buildings of the Female Asylum at Lovedale is a remote contingency dependent upon the decision to be arrived at with reference to the report of the Lawrence Asylum Commission, as the wash-houses and latrines already built may never be utilized for those purposes, and as additional accommodation for the extra Serjeants lately attached to the Male Asylum is urgently required, His Excellency the Governor in Council sanctions the transfer of these latter buildings from the custody of the District Engineer to that of the Lawrence Asylum Committee. And he authorizes those gentlemen to plan and carry out such alterations as they may think necessary.

2. The District Engineer will remove the tools and plant now within the buildings, and make other arrangements for storing them without delay.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Neilgherries.
" Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Educational Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

Spare Copies

No 80

From

The District Engineer
Neilgherries

To The Principal
Lawrence Asylum

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 6th Instant, in which you inform me that "the Committee have decided "on the appropriation of one of the Buildings "on the Female Site for Sergeants Quarters" May I beg you to be good enough to acquaint the Committee that none of those Buildings (which are in an incomplete State) are under the direct or indirect control of the Committee. Nor can I do anything to them without the orders of Government. Moreover these Buildings are at present occupied by the Stores &c. of this Department, and will be much required whenever the Lawrence Asylum Buildings, which may be on any date, are resumed. I beg also to state that these Buildings constructed as they are of Brick and ~~Mortar~~ mud with very thin walls are not at all fit to be pierced with new doors, and to be knocked about as I believe the Committee propose to treat them. Nor would they form at all pleasant Quarters for Sergeants Exposed as they are to the Monsoons &c. and being built as they have been merely for Privies and washhouses.

Your

You informe me that "the
"dormitory in the Male Branch which
"has been converted into Sergeants Quarters
"is unfit for a family to live in with
"comfort or decency" I have been over
the place since the receipt of your letter
and beg to forward a carefully considered
plan and Estimate for making these
Quarters as "comfortable and decent"
as any one could wish for. I pointed
out to one of the Sergeants who is to
occupy these Quarters, the additions I
thought of proposing, and he said he could
think of no objection to the Quarters, and
should infinitely prefer living in them
to residing in the Quarters proposed by
the Committee.

I propose in addition to the
rooms now screened off, to block up the
passage between the two dormitories at
its ends so as to form 2 perfectly private
bedrooms, one for each Sergeant. This
will give each Sergeant 3 living rooms.
I propose giving each Sergeant a bath
room, and to enlarge each chimney
place for cooking. The boys dormitory
I propose to entirely cut off from the
Sergeants Quarters, giving the Boys
a night privy in the passage, and a
separate entrance door on the east
side of their dormitory.

I propose all these additions Vizt
as a temporary measure, and would
beg to suggest to the Committee the
desirability of at once addressing
Government to grant permission for
the erection of the Masters Quarters
(the plan and Estimate for which were
sent to them sometime ago) and funds for
which can I believe be provided by
the Committee. In this way accommo-
dation could be found for all the
Asylum authorities, and the temporary
arrangement here proposed for adoption
could be removed

3 objections may perhaps be
made to the above proposal - one
that it is very undesirable to have
the Sergeants girls living in the same
building and playing about in the
same playground with the boys. This
objection could be easily removed by
the Sergeants girls being sent to the
Female School under Miss Albert
an arrangement which I am informed
is usual with the employees of the
Institution. Another objection is the
blocking up of the Passage which
will necessitate the Sergeants on their
night rounds going outside to get at
this one dormitory. This is an objection
in my opinion of no great importance
The passage except for the Sergeants
night rounds is never used, & the
boys are always marched to the other
dormitories across the Barrack Square

The third objection to which I
suppose the Committee do not attach
much importance as they have already
sanctioned the Sergeants occupying
this dormitory, is that a certain
number of boys are deprived of
being taken up. I look upon this
possible objection as rather an advantage
than otherwise. The School in my
opinion is quite large enough for
the partially temporary Management
under which it now exists. In
any case the deprivation need be continued
only

only for a limited period if sanction be obtained for permanent Quarters for the Masters

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt
/Signed/ J. L. L. Morant Capt R.E.
District Engineer

Distt Engrs office
Ootacamund
18th June 1873

/True Copy/
J. L. Morant Capt R.E.
District Engineer

Ootacamund
25th June 1873

Estimate No 17 of 1873/74

Neilgherry District

Work Cost of proposed additions &c to the Male Branch Lawrence Asylum - for converting it into quarters for 2 Sergeants

Measurements No	L	B	D	Contents	Particulars	Rate	Amount	Total
2	7'--	2'-6"	2'-6"	87'-6"	Foundation to Cross Walls in Corridor			
2	7'-6"	2'--	2'--	60'--	Basement ___ do ___ do ___			
2	8'--	1'-6"	13'--	312'--	Cross walls above ___			
2	8'--	1'-6"	8'--	252'--	Blocking up doors ___			
3	6'--	1'-9"	8'--		___ do ___ do ___ Archways ___			
2	6'--	1'-9"	7'--	147'--	Foundation to Bathrooms ___			
4	9'-2"	2'-2"	1'-6"	119'-2"	___ do ___ to ___ do ___			
2	7'--	2'-2"	1'-6"	45'-6"	Basement to ___ do ___			
4	9'-2"	1'-8"	2'--	124'-2⅔"	___ do ___ to ___ do ___			
2	7'-6"	1'-8"	2'--	50'--	Side walls above ___			
4	9'-2"	1'-2"	7'-6"	320'-4"	Rear walls ___ do ___			
2	8'--	1'-2"	6'-6"	121'-4"				
				1639'-7"				
				577'-11"	Deductions			
				1582	Cubic Feet Brick in clay {Deducting cost of Bricks}	10 --	158 3 2	
				1576	Square Feet Pointing ___	8 --	126 1 3	
				1576	___ do ___ white washing ___	-- 8 --	7 4 --	
				30	Sheets Corrugated iron 6 Feet ___	3 8 --	105 -- --	
				12	Iron Bolts for nuts large ___	-- 8 --	6 -- --	
				54	Iron Bolts for nuts small ___	-- 2 6	8 7 --	
				8	Cubic Ft Teakwood for Purlins Plates &c ___	4 -- --	32 -- --	
				128	Square Ft Asphalte flooring to Bathrooms	75 --	96 -- --	
				182	Square Ft Screen of Teak posts and Canvas ___	25 --	45 8 --	
				3	Doors - Removing, altering and refixing ___	-- -- --	15 -- --	
				10	Cubic Yards Excavating Foundation -	-- 4 --	2 8 --	602 9 5
					Superintendent & Sundries			27 7 7
					Total Estimate Rs			630 --

District Engineers Office
Ootacamund
18th June 1873

/Signed/ J. L. L. Morant Capt Rl
District Engineer

/True Copy/
Morant Capt Rl
District Engineer

Ootacamund
25th June 1873

From the Rev: Thos Aitken
Principal & Secy, Ootacd Lawrence Asylum
To the Hon: Wm Huddleston
Chief Secy to Government, Ootacamund

Ootacd Lawrence Asylum
July 2nd 1873

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Lawrence Asylum to address to You the following.

I beg to remind You that the Government in their order of 11th December 1872 No 345 (Educational Department) were pleased to sanction the appointment of four additional Sergeants to the Lawrence Asylum; & beg to state that the Buildings not having proper accommodation for them, the Committee thought of providing for their quarters in the adjoining workshops of the Public Works' Department; but, these workshops having no basement, the walls being thin, & the corrugated iron roof of a low pitch, Dr Pearl & Capt Bovett (Members of the Committee) objected to their appropriation on the ground that the buildings would be unwholesome for Europeans & their families to live in.

The Committee then selected certain other buildings near & on the same level as the Male Asylum Main Buildings which had been erected for workshops & stores to the new Female Asylum planned & Re Children, & were originally used for the

Rec'd 3rd July 1873
Ootacamund
10-12-1

accommodation of the Carpenters employed on the Male Asylum. They are now occupied by Shoemakers & tenders which the Committee believe could bear without detriment exposure to the open air.

These Buildings have never been made over to the Committee, and Capt Bryant found himself unable to transfer them without the sanction of Government. The Committee therefore solicit sanction to their transfer.

They consist of 4 spacious Chambers, each 38 ft. 8 ins. by 18 ft. 5 ins. broad, as the plan A enclosed.

I have the honor to state that the Committee propose to locate two of the Sergeants & their families in Chambers Nos 1 & 2. They believe that these Chambers could be converted into comfortable quarters by appropriate partition walls, & that the offices required by each family could be constructed in the form of lean-tos to the dayroom 3 & 4, & that every convenience could thereby be obtained at a comparatively moderate expense, pending the re-organisation of the staff of the Asylum & the erection of specific Sergeants Quarters.

These Chambers are on a solid basement raised several feet above the ground, are of brick-on-end with tiled roof & are extremely airy; & require only to be floored, partitioned off, & have doors opened in the walls.

I beg leave to state that Capt Bryant fears that the walls will not bear piercing for doors, but the Committee confidently expect that her skill will obviate the difficulty if it exists.

I have the honor to inform you that the Committee apply for these Chambers in consequence of the

arrangements already made for the housing of 2 of the Sergeants
& their families being found to be unsuitable. Those
arrangements were adopted in ignorance of all the evils
which would accrue from them, & in consequence of the
objections to the location of the Sergeants in the Workshops,
& the difficulty of securing the other Buildings referred to.
It was understood that the two Sergeants who required
quarters could be put in Ward 2 (in plan Bendixed)
in the Male Asylum new Building without disturbing the
accomodation of the Institution, & it was believed
that the boys turned out of No 2 (in consequence of its
occupation by the Sergeants) could be accomodated without
crowding in the other Wards, & that the emptied Ward
could be turned temporarily into proper Sergeants Quarters.
These anticipations have turned out fallacious.
Screens of dangers stretched on frames have been put
into No 2, & a passage is left for the Boys in Ward
to reach the Latrine N at right. One of the Sergeants
in Ward 2 turns out to be a married man & he
expects shortly to have his wife & 2 grown-up daughters
from the plains; it is obvious that the latter will not
be decently accomodated at night with only a screen
(screens to sound) between them & their Parents, &
that it is improper that the Latrine N which is
the only one available should be used by them &
by the Boys in Ward 1.
Capt Rowart proposes to get over these objections
by the alterations in red ink in plan B.
To these alterations the Committee think there are
numerous objections, — the external walls of the
Asylum would have to be pierced to project the
bath-rooms, — the main room would be apparently
lighted from the bath-rooms, — & it does not seem proper

that the Boys in Ward 1 should obtain access to their Dormitory from the open air; — & it is hardly necessary that a passage should be constructed into a privy & the cleaning of the privy carried thro' a Dormitory.

Capt Rosario's alterations are proposed at a cost of Rs 639, & he considers that the conversion of Quarters 1 & 2 in Plan A into quarters will cost Rs 2000. Even if the latter were the cost, the Committee consider that the appropriation of the Quarters would be the preferable plan, but they do not think that the cost will be nearly so large as suggested because they contemplate the work being done by their own agency, in a less finished style than it would be executed by the Department of Public Works but in a manner they believe efficient.

With regard to the Sergeants messing in the Main Building, the Committee remark in fine — that it diminishes the proper accommodation afforded for Asylum boys, — that at present the arrangements made fail to secure decency, — & that the arrangements proposed by Capt Rosario will not remove the former objection & will only obviate the latter in some respects.

I have the honor to enclose 2 Plans, marked A & B.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Thos Wills
Pres & Sec. Com.

Letter from the Principal
of the Lawrence Asylum,
submitted for orders, with
letter from the District
Engineer, Neilgherries

Mr. Bliss states that ac-
commodation being req'd
for 4 add'l Sergeants, the
Managing Committee pro-
pose to locate 2 of them in
outhouses of the new Female
Asylum now filled with
Tools and Plant, retained
there in daily expectation
of special orders regarding
the prosecution of the works
pending which Capt. [illegible] propo-
ses to locate the
same objects. It is presumed
buildings [illegible] can be
that 2 Sergeants [illegible] the
accommodated [illegible] Quarters con-
attendants' [illegible] the purpose,
structed for the [illegible] to remove
as the proposal [illegible] already
the 2 Sergeants [illegible] the
temporarily put up [illegible] at Capt.
Boys' Ward No. 2 [illegible] fit up
Moraine would [illegible]
properly for them at a
cost of Rs. 630, being less
than [illegible] thrice [illegible] the

computes as requisite
to lay down plans, sections,
and contract Officers to
the Female Asylum Out-
-houses -

There is no doubt that if
the latter are not liable to
be removed at all, it would
be open to suitable improve-
ments to render them
suitable permanent quarters
for some of the Staff of the
Asylum - But in item:
perhaps, if resident Matron,
Capt. Morants suggestion
would appear to provide
all that is needed - To
meet the objections to all
terms, might perhaps
might easily be made at
the corner marked X, and
the passage left open as
present -

The Principal proposal
that if the Female Asylum
Outhouses be given up for
Sergeants Quarters, no demand
by the Committee, the needful
improvements should be
carried out by their own Agent
is not a desirable arrange-
ment as regards buildings

on the design and construc-
tion of which so much money
and care have been be-
stowed -

It would be well to dispose
of this subject in connection
with the Orders that have
to be passed on the Report
of the Committee appointed
by the Govt. of India to inquire
into the subject of the Asylum
Systems throughout the
Country -

Lyall
9.7.70

The question of
~~disposing~~ accommodation
for the sergeants must
not be omitted, I think, the
disposal of the larger
question – viz the adoption
or rejection of the
Commissioners proposals.
This matter clearly
must go to the Secretary
of State. So his final
disposal is likely to be
slow under any circumstances
I would carry out the
suggestion of the Committee
at once.
I spend and have
often thought for two
crafty workshops, stores &c
near

were Constructed by the
O.P.W in Connexion
with the Lawrence Asylum
Buildings from the
very Commencement and
I think much money
was wasted. But the
outlay was pistol proof
if I recollect aright
on the ground that they
would come in usefully
for Offices &c when the
main building was
occupied.

Some of these have
no doubt turned out
usefully but one house
still a large building,
which is urgently wanted
for purposes of accommodation
refused by the D.P.W Officers,
because he may require
it, should building be
recommended. This
filled with Vacant Cribbers

which is not in use nor
likely to become into use until
the larger question is decided
for no permanent work can
be undertaken pending
the decision on the Commissioners
Report

I think any alteration
of the main building for
the purposes sought and
in contemplation of the
room for children is
objectionable and at
this moment, I should
add, precluded by
uncertainty as to the
future of the Institution

I would order Captain
Stewart to remove the
things at once and
to make over the
premises to the Committee
for adaptation as proposed.

I would allow the
Committee to do what
they propose by their
own Agency. We must
try

by whether minor additions of
alterations to the Institution cannot
be done at some less
cost than that which
has already incurred
to Embarrassing. The
Committee think that they
can work cheaper and
more correct than by them on this
small matter

12/11 MM

The Secretary respectfully begs leave to make reference to the Statement regarding the "Ice Creek Work" the Stores in which are thought much money may be wasted in connection with the Insurance which exists upon them, and to appeal for a contribution to the P.W. Dept. for special Work done to Stores whatever were added for the use of the Pub. Works Dept. The list of buildings erected for construction by the Govt - Such list having been prepared by Sir Wm. Denison himself, and Colonel Walker having been made, annually, answerable for their compliance with it -

among the buildings

ordered was a separate set of steps fitting with Iron Rests, which were to consider ineffectual, as in attempting to unscrew the Screws from the boxes & as Workmen for them - find this some hindering work: ended up for the Eve: five Invaluable Machines now used Stores by the P.W. Dept: during erection of the Iron Buildings - Some idea of their nature may be gathered from the words of the Principal Officers who protested against their adaptation as Sergeants Quarters because they have no basements, the will be their end the running of the pitch -

Nothing beyond usually connected in the erection of the buildings was heard of the Pub. Wks. Depts Colonel Walker, trusts he will be excused for deficiencing blame being imputed to that Depts. fruitfully to the best of their ability; carrying out the Orders of Govt.

Copy sent to Mr Adams Corrects & Mr Adams Ltr. of 26th Feb. 1861 to Mr Williamson

Pro Office Madras Govt. 3038 W.D.
Read 5th Sept.

From The Principal & Secy to Govt. H.E.G.
Lawrence Asylum 2nd July/73
Mess's Ch. Secy to Govt.

As the resumption of work with the buildings of the Female Asylum at Lovedale is a remote contingency dependent upon the decision to be arrived at with reference to the Report of the Lawrence Asylum Commission; as the Workhouses & Latrines already built may never be utilized for those purposes; and as additl accommodation for the Sergeants lately attached to the Male Asylum is urgently by regiment, N.I. the G. in C. sanctions the transfer of these latter buildings from the Custody of the District Engineer, Wynaad to that of the Lawrence Asylum Committee - And he authorizes

[illegible] Sentinel
Bipler, and com-
cate such altera-
tions as they may
think necessary.

The District Engi-
neer will remove
the Poles & Planks
now within the
Wilmington, & make
such arrangements
in storing them.

Genl

To The Dist Engineers
" Controllers
" Qrs Masters

Desp. Letter 8-C 17/12,
H-283-84.
Ord. Dec 17 73

25/11/89 ✓
7-7-90

No. 377 A

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Engr
Nellgherries

Dated

Recd. Encl. 4

G. O. 16th Decr. No. 3033.

Nos. 283 & 284

Lawrence Asylum &c
Lonedale. The transfer
of certain buildings ad-
jacent to the Asylum
from the custody of the
Dist Engr. to that of the
Lawrence Asylum Com-
mittee, sanctioned & authority granted
to those gentlemen to plant
Carry out such alterations as

are necessary for adapting
them as Sergeants' Quarters.
Dist Engr. directed to remove
the Tools & Plant now within
the buildings & to arrange
for storing them.

17/7.