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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D (Political) DEPARTMENT

|          |                 |        |
|----------|-----------------|--------|
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

செப்பவிருவற் பெயர் பி. பாரணம்  
 செப்பவிருவற் காசு எடுத்தல்  
 ஜெனரல்பட்ட நாள் மார்ச் 26  
1873 ஆண்டு மார்ச் 26  
 சிறிபுத்தூர் பி. பாரணம்  
 மு. பாரணம் பி. பாரணம்  
 கையொப்பம் பி. பாரணம்

①/273  
 Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,  
 30th June 1873.

No. 58. Read the following letter 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, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 23rd May 1873, No. 381 :—

I have the honour to lay before you a complete set of revised plans and estimates for converting the old Royapettah Police Court into a residence for the Prince of Arcot.

1. Revised plans.  
3 Drawings.
2. Original plans.  
7 Drawings.  
1 Estimate.

G. O., No. 116, dated 17th March last, directed me to meet the Hon. R. S. Ellis and the Chief Secretary to Government on the estate, and the plans now submitted are the result of this meeting and consultation.

The only alteration I have made is in the position of the zenana, and this is done at the suggestion and with the approval of Oomuth-ood-Dowlah Bahadoor. The principal work to be undertaken is as follows :—

**PALACE BUILDING.**—The main structure, marked A on plan, will be thoroughly repaired, new faced, and re-lined. The existing drawing-room will be turned into a "Durbar Hall" suitably decorated. Two principal staircases, lighted by lanterns (which externally produce a good architectural effect), will lead from the entrance-hall to the rooms above.

On the north side, a verandah, entrance-hall, and porch will be constructed. This side will become the principal façade of the building opposite to the public entrance to the grounds.

**ZENANA.**—A large and commodious zenana will be constructed on the south side of the palace (marked B on plan). This differs from the former sanctioned plan in having an upper story on the north side, a higher internal screen-wall, two additional cook-rooms, and other small improvements, which will be apparent on comparing the detailed plans. The earthwork for the foundations has already been executed on the east side, the site formerly chosen by Lord Napier as the position for the new zenana. These trenches will be filled in again.

**STABLES AND LATRINE.**—The existing buildings (marked C on plan) will be completely renovated and repaired, and twelve additional stalls and three carriage-houses erected (marked D on plan). The total accommodation will now be thirty stalls and five coach-houses.

A compound-wall will be constructed to enclose the stable-yard, and in the south-west corner a large latrine for general accommodation. I think it would be advisable to provide a smaller latrine south of the zenana for the accommodation of the servants waiting on the ladies, but I have no note on this point in my pocket-book.

**COMPOUND WALL.**—This is a very expensive item. I have a number of half-burnt bricks on the brickfield as good, if not better than the ordinary small country brick, but not good enough for important public buildings; I propose putting these into this work at reduced rates. The wall will measure in total 4,587 feet, of which 2,379 feet have a wall 6½ and 4½ feet high, which will be raised to 10 feet, and the remainder, 2,208 feet, will have to be built entirely new.

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COOK-ROOM BUILDINGS.—This block, marked E on plan, will be repaired and renovated.

SEPOY BARRACK.—Part of this to the south will make an admirable "Tope Khana" for three guns (see letter F on plan), and the remainder will be repaired and left as it is.

OLD JAIL.—This building, marked G, will be opened out, the existing high windows will be cut down to the ground, and the whole group will make excellent servants' houses.

NOWBUT KHANA AND ENTRANCE.—This building, marked H on plan, differs from the plan I formerly submitted. The upper part gives more accommodation and the musicians will be protected by venetian windows. As it will be some distance from the house, I have altered the character to Saracenic plastered art.

The houses on the east side of the existing road will be purchased as far as the main road, and a roadway will extend from the present entrance to the main road eighteen feet broad, at the end of which the Nowbut Khana will be built.

The estimates are as follow:—

|                         | RS.    |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Main structure          | 15,050 |
| Zenana                  | 37,770 |
| Additional stables, &c. | 5,450  |
| Latrine                 | 1,180  |
| Repairing barrack       | 210    |
| Do. jail                | 310    |
| Do. cook-room, &c.      | 780    |
| Do. stables, &c.        | 400    |
| Nowbut Khana            | 3,800  |
| Boundary-wall           | 13,160 |
| Gates, roads, &c.       | 4,840  |
| Total                   | 82,950 |

Transferred to the Political Department, with the remark that the estimates do not appear to include the purchase of the houses proposed to be pulled down on the east side of the main approach.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,  
30th May 1873. Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1873, No. 273.

The Governor in Council approves the plan and estimate for converting the Royapettah premises into a residence for the Prince of Arcot, and directs that immediate steps be taken for carrying out the work. The arrangements for the zenana appear to have been approved by the family.

2. The Governor in Council observes that out of the grant of one lakh of Rupees made by the Government of India for this purpose, Rupees 45,000 were spent on the purchase of the house in Egmore to which the Royapettah Police Court has been removed, and that a further sum of Rupees 8,000, required for

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certain additional improvements to this building, was, by G. Os., 14th March and 8th April 1872, Nos. 356 and 491, respectively, also charged against the special grant.

3. The debit of this last sum to the one lakh fund was a merely temporary arrangement, and the Accountant-General will now re-credit the fund with Rupees 8,000 by transfer from the Provincial balance. The result will be that a balance of Rupees 28,000, less any small expenditure that may have already been made on the Royapettah building, is available for the improvements now approved, which are estimated to cost Rupees 82,950, leaving a deficit of Rupees 28,000 in round numbers.

But, in addition to the work included in the estimate, the Government observe that the cost of purchasing some native houses to form the north entrance road, of filling up an offensive stagnant pond in the same locality, of providing a latrine for the zenana attendants, and of bringing water to the premises from the municipal main has to be provided for, and also that, in order to remove all pretext for declining to occupy the residence, it will be necessary to furnish it suitably.

4. The Governor in Council estimates that for all these purposes, and to meet the deficit, an additional sum of a lakh of Rupees will be needed, and he resolves to apply to the Supreme Government for a further grant of this amount in 1874-75 to allow of the political object in view being fully attained.

5. The sum of about Rupees 55,000 which is in hand is considered to be sufficient to meet all the requirements of the work in the current year, but the Governor in Council desires to impress upon the Government Architect the importance which the Government attach to the speedy execution of the work, and he trusts that no avoidable delay will be allowed to hinder its completion.

(True Extract.)

*Sturges*  
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.  
.. Government Agent at Chepauk.  
.. Accountant-General.  
.. Consulting Architect to Government.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Approved for an alternative for converting the Department of Public Services into a resource for the House of Arts, and dropping that immediate step by the necessary official work.

JUNE.  
1953. 56.59.

POLITICAL.  
No 3818  
THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
LONDON.  
AC.

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Cont. of 1873 20 mms.

67.  
Communicated to the Com-  
missionary (the subject is here a special attention)  
to be taken to paragraph 5.