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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT

|          |         |       |
|----------|---------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 574-65  | Press |
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
FORT ST. GEORGE, 4th March 1874.

No. 93.

No. 565.

From

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,  
*Secretary to the Government of Madras,*  
*Public Works Department,*

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
*Public Works Department.*

CIVIL WORKS, No. 9.

SIR,—Adverting to my docket  
No. 2,307, dated 17th September 1873,  
and Colonel Crommelin's letter of the

14th October, No. 418 B. C., I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to request the general approval of the Government of India to the designs which have been submitted for the General Post Office and Telegraph Office proposed to be erected at Madras; and to point out that without such general approval it is manifestly impossible that detailed estimates for such extensive buildings can be supplied as apparently expected.

2. I am to request that orders may be passed on this application in time to admit of the commencement of the work by the 1st April next and ensure the Budget allotment of 1874-75 being fully availed of.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,  
*Secretary to Government.*

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies.



Govt. of {1874} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA.

Dated March 4th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 14th March 1874, No. 565.

MARCH

No. 93

REQUESTING approval to the designs submitted for the General Post Office to be erected at Madras, and requesting that orders may be passed in time to admit of the commencement of the work by the 1st April next.

No. 939  
1277  
Postmaster General's Office  
Madras. 14th March 1873.

To.  
The Director General  
of the Post Office of India,  
Calcutta.

Sir.  
With reference to your letter  
No. 560 dated 11 February 1873 and  
previous correspondence on the subject  
I have the honor to forward for your  
approval Copies of the Revised Plans  
for the proposed Building on the site  
on the North Beach for the Combined  
General Post Office and Central  
Telegraph Office, Madras, also of a  
letter from the Government Architect  
No. 589 dated 22nd October 1873, with  
which the Plans were received.

It will be perceived that  
the Government Architect states  
that the Plans are now under  
consideration of the Government  
of

of India and that the approximate  
estimate of cost of the whole work  
will amount to 57 lacs, exclusive  
of out offices.

The Plans, so far as the  
General Post office is concerned,  
have been arranged by the Govern-  
ment Architect in personal  
communication with me and the  
Postmaster Madras.

The estimate has not  
been received and appears still  
under preparation. It, or a copy of it,  
will on receipt be forwarded to you.  
I am &c.

Signed E P Bourke  
Postmaster General  
No. 4560.

From

F. P. Hogg Esquire

Offg. Director General  
of the Post Office in India

In The Postmaster General of Madras.  
Sir -  
I am by 11<sup>th</sup> November 1873.  
In reply to your letter

No. 939, dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1873.  
I have the honor to state, that the  
ground plan received, seems to  
provide for the accommodation of the  
Post office, in the new Combined  
Post office and Telegraph building  
at Madras on the first floor, not  
on the ground floor. If this be the  
case, and if every person who visits  
the Post office to post a letter, or  
make an enquiry has to mount  
up a flight of steps, I think the  
objection a grave one. The Post office  
to be readily accessible to the public  
ought to be located on the ground floor.  
2

Further it seems to me  
that except accommodation has been  
provided in the Postmaster's quarters.  
The dining room is too large and  
might be reduced in length by  
four feet. The writing room is  
superfluous. There are 3 bedrooms.

1 dressing room and 3 bath rooms  
and bed room might altogether be  
omitted.

3. On the first floor I notice  
a room 22' x 26' for the Postmaster's  
clerk. This seems excessive the  
more so when it is remembered  
that the Postmaster's office consists  
of 5 clerks, and the Dead Letter  
office (for which a room 26' x 20' only  
is provided) has 7 clerks.

4. I am not at all satisfied  
that sufficient provision for  
light has been made in prospect  
to Post office rooms on the first  
floor. There will apparently be  
lighted from above, but it should  
be borne in mind that if one  
provision more than another is  
needed in a Post office, it consists  
in ample light.

5. The accommodation for  
the Telegraph and Ship and Steam  
Department,

Receipt Department  
55 x 36 - 10 clerks  
Telegraph  
Despatch 55 x 30  
17 clerks  
Ship and Steam  
55 x 20 - 1 clerk  
Baughy 18 x 25 1/2  
5 clerks

7<sup>c</sup>  
Department seems excessive and  
requires reconsideration.

I return the ground plans.

I Am Sir

Signed E. P. Douglas  
for offg Director General of the  
Post office of India.

No. 11478  
12/77

True Copy of the foregoing  
letter No. 4560 from the Director  
General of the Post office of India  
to the Postmaster General, Madras  
dated 11 November 1873 forwarded  
to the Government Architect, Madras  
with reference to his letter No. 589  
dated 22 October 1873, and with a  
request that he will make the  
necessary revisions with reference  
to Director General's remarks.

The Plans are herewith  
returned.

Signed E. P. Douglas  
Postmaster General

Postmaster General's office  
Madras 26 November 1873

No. 658. Consulting Architects Office  
Madras 26 November 1873.

Sir,

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

To Major The Honorable R. P. Bourke

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your Memo. No. 11648  
dated the 21<sup>st</sup> instant forwarding a  
letter No. 1560 dated 11<sup>th</sup> November  
from the Director General of the  
Post Office in India,

2. Before forwarding this letter  
to Government for orders, I have  
to request that you will be good  
enough to state whether you agree  
to the reductions proposed. I ask  
this question as you yourself fixed  
the accommodation necessary, considering  
about that which I have provided.

I have &c.  
Signed P. F. Chisholm  
Consulting Architect to Government

No. 1095  
1277

Postmaster General's Office  
Madras 28<sup>th</sup> November 1873

To

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

Sir

In reply to yours of 20<sup>th</sup> November,  
I would wish to point out that it does  
not appear to me to be a matter  
of importance whether I agree or  
disagree with the reductions  
ordered in the Director General's  
letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

He having ordered the reductions  
to be made, it is not courteous  
for me to question his decision.

I have &c.

Signed R. P. Bourke

No. 655. Postmaster General  
Architects Office  
Rajahmundry 10<sup>th</sup> December 1873

Sir

The Consulting Architect to Government  
To The Postmaster General, Madras  
Sir, I have the honor to forward you

you the Revised plans for the  
proposed New Post office called  
for in your Memo. No. 11478 dated  
21<sup>st</sup> November 1873.

I have complied with  
the instructions of the Director  
General of Post Offices in India  
as set forth in his letter No. 1560  
of the 11<sup>th</sup> November to your address  
except as regards the Basements.  
If you kindly explain to the  
Gentlemen that nearly all public  
and private offices in Madras  
have basements, and that the arch  
of mounting a flight of steps  
is not really considered a hardship  
by the business part of the population  
of Madras. I trust that he will  
not continue to think the arrange-  
ment an objectionable one. In  
the matter of posting letters of course  
the Box might be placed any  
where on the outside of the building.  
With regard to the subject

of light, I think the Director  
General will be perfectly  
satisfied when he sees the elaborate  
plans.

As the preparation of plans  
cannot be proceeded with until  
these plans are approved, I shall  
feel obliged if you will obtain an  
early approval or otherwise of the  
plans now forwarded.

I have &c.  
Signed J. P. Christie Esq.  
Consulting Architect to Government

No. 1140  
12/7/73

Postmaster General's office  
18<sup>th</sup> December 1873

To The Director General  
of the Post Office of India  
Sir. In reply to your letter No. 1560  
dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1873, I have the  
honour to inform you that a copy of it  
was furnished to Government  
Architect, with a request that he

he will make the necessary revision.  
I now inclose Copies of the letter  
as per margin. The revised Plans  
alluded to in the Government  
Architects letter No. 655 dated  
10<sup>th</sup> December 1873, are herewith  
forwarded.

I am &c.

Signed E.P. Bors. Esq.  
Postmaster General  
No. 5601.

From

J. P. Hogg Esquire

Offg Director General of the  
Post Office of India

To The Postmaster General  
Madras

Calcutta 21<sup>st</sup> Decem. 1873

Sir In reply to your letter No. 1140  
dated 15<sup>th</sup> Decem. 1873, I have the  
honor to state that my main  
objection to the plan submitted  
for a new Combined Post office and  
telegraph building at Madras

consists

to be dated 21<sup>st</sup> Decem. 1873, from Government Architect  
No. 1095 dated 28<sup>th</sup> Decem. 1873 from the Postmaster General  
No. 655 dated 10<sup>th</sup> Decem. 1873 from Government Architect  
} Copies retained

Consists in the provision of Post  
office accommodation upstairs instead  
of on the ground floor.

2. It appeared to me un-  
mountable objection that a  
flight of steps should have to be  
ascended by each member of the  
public on every occasion of verbal  
communication with the Residency  
Post office. Location on the ground  
floor seemed to me necessary & associated  
with ready accessibility in connection  
with a department so essentially  
a public one as that of the Post office.  
The Madras Government Architect  
has, however asked me to withdraw  
this objection on the ground that  
"nearly all public and private  
" offices in Madras have basements  
" and that the act of mounting  
" a flight of steps is not really  
" considered a hardship by the  
" business part of the population  
" of Madras." The question thus  
resolves

resolve itself into a local one,  
which I do not feel myself  
competent to decide: although  
still maintaining the force of  
the arguments previously set forth  
I think that the inhabitants of  
Madras are the best judges as  
to whether the Post office should be  
located or not on an upper floor,  
and that the question should be  
governed by their wishes. Therefore  
I think you should refer the  
matter for the orders of the  
Government of Madras, informing  
them both of my views and of  
those of the Government Architect.  
I am quite willing to subordinate  
my views in this matter to those  
of the Local Government, and  
only wish to ensure full consideration  
before final decisions are given in  
building.

3. Accepting the assurance  
given by the Government Architect  
as to plenty of light, I approve  
of the plan (herewith returned)  
in other respects.

I am &c.  
/s/ J. P. Douglas  
For offg Director General of the  
Post office of India

/True copies/

W. H. M.  
Postmaster General

No. 13888  
1277

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
MADRAS, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 1871.

From Major the Honorable C. R. Bouske  
Postmaster-General, Madras

To Colonel G. W. Walker C. C.  
Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department,  
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

By direction of the Director  
General of the Post office of India  
I have the honor to submit for  
the decision of the Government  
a question on which that officer  
and the Government Architect  
Madras are at issue, viz, whether  
in the arrangement of the Plan  
of the proposed Building for the  
General Post office at Madras  
the Post office should be located  
on the ground floor or on an  
upper floor.

I

M. J. H. Bouske  
17<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 1871



564 P. H. Dept

# Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the February 1874.

Read the following

From the Post Master General  
Madras.

(Forwarded No 13888 of 17 Jan 1874)  
1277

His Excellency

the Governor in Council  
observes that excepting the  
objection raised by the  
Director General of Post  
Offices to the basing of  
the new General Post  
Office, all other require-  
ments have been com-  
plied with. The existing  
objection is over-ruled  
by

M. S. M.

P. H. 1874 Madras.

1871.

No 310.

Department.

From

The Postmaster-General

Madras.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

Enc: 2.

No. 13888

No 564 - 565 - 4 Madras

Dated

17<sup>th</sup>

January 1874

Received

19<sup>th</sup>

January 1874

Answered

Public Works

of course you have regard  
ing the Public Works  
Office the Public Works  
and request the same may  
be referred to the same  
Government decision as to  
whether the Public Works  
be located on the ground floor  
or on the upper floor

No 91

Feb 27/74

Feb 27/74

by Government. It is not considered a hardship that persons attending the Post Office for purposes of enquiry should have to mount a flight of steps. Receptacles for posting letters may if necessary be provided on a level with the road.

The Government of India will be addressed with a view to definite orders being passed on the designs submitted so as to enable work to be commenced by the 1<sup>st</sup> April next and admit of the allotment for the work next year being fully utilized

utilized - 565-

To The Post Master Genl. H.E. No 81  
Langg Architect  
Public Dept.  
Despina S. C 23/3/75

The Secretary to the  
Government of India.

Adverting to my  
docket No 2307 dated 17<sup>th</sup>  
September 1873 and Colonel  
Crommelin's letter of  
the 14<sup>th</sup> October No 418  
B. C. I am directed  
by His Excellency  
the Governor in Council  
to request the general  
approval of the Govern-  
ment of India to  
the designs which have  
been

been submitted for the  
General Post Office and  
Telegraph Office proposed  
to be erected at Madras;  
and to point out that  
without such general  
approval it is manifestly  
impossible that detailed  
Estimates for such exten-  
sive buildings can be  
supplied as is apparently  
expected.

I am to re-  
quest that orders may  
be passed on His appli-  
cation in time to  
admit of the commence-  
ment of the work  
by the 1<sup>st</sup> April next  
and ensure the Budget  
allotment

allotment of 1874-75  
being fully availed  
of. - ENM.

h.s. despd 4/3/74.  
P. Com 23/3/74.

To, The Secretary & the Govt  
of India.

Sir, I am directed to forward the accompanying correspondence that has taken place between the Director General of the Port Office of India, the Port Master General of Madras, and the Consulting Architect to the Government, on

I do not think the subject of the Plan we need p to the the subject of the Plan Supreme pt. of the new General Port all - now be left office at Madras. And under Mr. D's letter I am instructed to point out, with reference to a matter of Gov.

my Doc Ret. No. 2307 of  
14<sup>th</sup> September 1873, and  
Colonel Brammell's  
letter No. 418 B. C. of 14<sup>th</sup>  
October, the inconvenience  
arising from the want  
of definite orders from  
the Govt. of India, appro-  
ving or disapproving  
authoritatively of the  
designs submitted; without  
which orders it is nat-  
urally impossible  
that detailed estimates  
for such extensive  
buildings can be sup-  
plied as apparently  
expected, the Architect  
meanwhile being aware  
that a discussion was  
going on all the time  
between the local head  
of the Post office whose

plaint - I would  
suggest that  
the plans - in-  
cluding the  
basement be  
by the Journal  
the matter settled  
the result can  
be submitted to  
Major Voss the  
I conclude that  
at least there  
will be better  
before the - if  
not also seeing  
room for both  
+ better. Loz

Paper with  
the same.

concurrence in his de-  
sign he had formerly  
obtained, and the Director  
General whom it was  
supposed that the Govt.  
of India would con-  
sult with on the  
subject.

I am directed to state  
that this Govt. do not  
concur in Mr. Hogg's  
objections, and desire  
to be favoured with  
such orders of the Govt.  
of India as will en-  
able work to be com-  
menced by the 1<sup>st</sup>  
April, and the Budget  
allotment <sup>of 1874-75</sup> to be fully  
availed of. - g.m.

71 @ 93

Dec. 21. 27/4

225271

On 26 Jan/71

13-10-15 1/2

17-2-20 ✓



310

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Postmaster General

+

The Secretary to the  
Govt. of India

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 2.

G. O. 4 March No. 584-585

NO. 91-92+93

Requesting approval  
to the designs sub-  
mitted for the Genl  
Post Office to be erected  
at Madras, requesting  
that orders ~~notwithstanding~~  
~~thereafter~~ may be passed  
in time to admit of the  
commencement of the work  
by the 1<sup>st</sup> April next.

New General Post Office  
Madras

Passing orders in cor-  
respondence regarding  
the New General Post  
Office at Madras, &  
Govt. of India  
Place of in the