

(1) Number of pages 10
 (2) Date of repair 29 7-56
 (3) Initials of the Referencer low

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2286 W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	27.5.1878	197.

100/

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2286
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

27th May 1878, No. 2,286 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 298. From Captain R. R. E. BROCKMAN, R.E., District Engineer, Tanjore, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads, dated Vennaur Head, 16th May 1878, No. 996.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 53 TJ, dated 24th April 1878, requesting to forward, if possible, a copy of the photograph taken in the year 1860 of the ruined tower at Negapatam, referred to in paragraph 3 of G.O., Public Works Department, dated 26th January 1860, No. 206, I have the honor to inform you that no photograph of the tower above referred to is forthcoming from the records of this office.

2. I have also the honor of returning, as requested, copy of G.O. No. 206 that accompanied the above memorandum.

No. 299. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1878, No. 2,286 W.
COMMUNICATED to the Public Department with reference to G.O., No. 678, dated 17th April 1878 in that department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

(True Copy.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Tanjore.
„ Public Department, with copy of Note by the Honorable W. Hudleston.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

the



BUILDINGS AND ROADS,
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1878) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

TANJOUR.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MAX.

Nos. 200-200.

Negapatam Tower.—Letter from the District Engineer, Tanjore, indicating that there exists no photograph of the tower, and is submitted to the Public Works Department with reference to the G.O. No. 678, dated 17th April 1878.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of January 1880.

No. 101. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 7th September 1859, No. 4703.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 1357, under date 4th June 1859, and to forward the lithographed copies of the ancient tower at Negapatam which were agreeably to orders, sent to the District Engineer of Tanjore, in view of its being ascertained whether any changes have since the date of the original drawings taken place in the structure.

2. The District Engineer reports that the two lower stories, and a small portion only of the wall of the 3rd story to the north east, as marked in pencil, still exist, that the portions of the upper story which had the appearance of windows with lattice work before are only recesses in the wall, and that the small recesses as shown in the lower story, as also the small pillars in the upper story on either side of the recesses, have been almost obliterated, owing to the projecting portion of the tower having fallen, the work being built in rows of stretchers with but few headers introduced to connect the different layers.

3. The lower corners of the tower now project but little beyond the upper portion, bricks having fallen out and the angles being undermined, especially on the south side; and the building is generally in a very dilapidated and dangerous state.

4. Under the circumstances of so unfavorable a report from the District Engineer, who states that the tower is gradually crumbling to pieces, and that the proposed repairs can* but very partially arrest the progress of decay, while in its present state the building is dangerous, I would recommend its demolition and the cancelling of the sanctioned estimate for its repairs.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1860, No. 200.

In this letter the Chief Engineer in reply to the order of Government noted in the margin,* reports on the ruined tower at Negapatam. He states that the building is in a dilapidated and dangerous state; that it is gradually crumbling to pieces; and that the proposed repair can but very partially arrest the progress of decay. He recommends therefore that it should be demolished, and that the sanction for its repair (amounting to 400 Rupees) should be cancelled.

2. The Government deferred passing orders on this proposal till the Honorable the President should be able to examine the structure in the course of his contemplated tour to the southwards; this he has now done. His Excellency found the structure in the state described by Colonel Bell; the style of construction, being burnt brick in clay, with the tops of the door ways or windows supported by timber (still remaining in some cases,) lead him to share the doubts expressed by Captain Oakes as to the antiquity of the building; he considers also that it does not deserve the name of an ancient monument, because it is destitute of any inscription, sculpture, or other characteristic marks, and does not appear to have even a consistent local tradition attached to it.

3. He is of opinion that the effectual restoration of it would cost vastly more than the small sum formerly sanctioned for the purpose; but, for the reasons above given, he does not advise a restoration. Neither does he concur in Colonel Bell's recommendation for the demolition of the structure. The course which he proposes is that it should be fenced round, to secure it from wilful injury, as well as to prevent danger from falling materials, and that it should be left to the progress of natural decay. He is also of opinion that good photographs should be taken of the tower in its present state, and he has made arrangements for ensuring this being done.

4. The Government resolve to adopt the course thus recommended. The Chief Engineer will be instructed to cause the necessary enclosing fence to be constructed out of the amount sanctioned as above noticed. A simple palmyra fence will be sufficient.

(Signed) T. FYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

the

No 996.

District Engineer's Office
Camp Kemmear Head
16 May 1878

From

Captain R. R. E. Brockman U.S.
District Engineer, Tanjore

To

Colonel E. A. Ford U.S.
Chief Engineer D.W.
Buildings & Roads Branch.

Sir,

With reference to your
Memorandum No. 58. D. J. dated 24 April
1878 requesting to forward, if possible,
a copy of the photograph taken in the
year 1850 of the ruined tower at nega-
patam referred to in para 3 of G.O.
P.W.D. dated 26 January 1860 No. 206.
I have the honor to inform you that
no photograph of the tower above
referred to is forthcoming from the
records of this Office.

I have also the honor of
returning, as requested, copy of
G.O. No. 206 that accompanied
the

the above memorandum.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

Amelbman
by Captain

Distinguishes

13/1
No 228647 27 May/78
brought to the
Public Dept. with
reference to G.O.
No. 678 dated 17th
April, 1878 in that
Department.

Est
22/5

from
The District Engineer
Dangore

To

The Chief Engineer
Building & Roads.

No. 996

Dated 16 May 1878.
Res. S. S.

Per. One

D. E. Sangre

Public Dept with copy of
letter by the Hon. Mr. Middleton

C.E. 587. 24.4.78.
G.O. 1998. 1.5.78

Recd. 7-6-78

Negapatam Tower.

Refers that no photo-
graph of the ruined tower
at Negapatam is forth.
-coming from the records.
& returns G.O. No. 205.

Communicated

To Ctg. 21.5.78
Cir 23.5.78 Dtd 27.5.78

5751



Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

D. L. Sanyal

Date

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

O. O. 27 May 1878, No. 1286 W

Res.

Negapatam Tower

intimate letter from the S. L. Sanyal
that there exists no photograph
of the —, comm. to the Pub
Sept with ref to No 6783/17.4/77

S. L. Sanyal