

(1) Number of pages 26 ✓
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer lms

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>1255 W</u>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<u>17.5.1881</u>	<u>197.</u>

J. H. R.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1255
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

17th May 1881, No. 1,255 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 26. From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated Chepauk, 8th April 1881, No. 36.

I HAVE the honor to report that I visited Humpi in accordance with the orders passed in G.O., No. 267 W., dated the 1st February 1881, and that I inspected the ancient remains in and about the old city of Vizianuggur.

2. I directed my particular attention to Malivantum Rungaswamy and the Vittala Swamy temples.

3. The Malivantum Rungaswamy is in fair preservation. In common with nearly all the remains in this locality, it is overgrown with vegetation and leaks badly.

4. The most interesting part of the temple, architecturally speaking, is the Kalyana muntapum on the left of the entrance to the court-yard. The roof of this muntapum is constructed of stone girders with flanges, and the stones forming the roof rest on these flanges.



5. The concrete and brick terrace which invariably covers this form of roof does not extend beyond the point A; thus leaving a gap in which numerous fissures admit the rain to the supports below.

6. The whole of the vegetation should be cut out as much as possible by the roots, the larger cracks in the roofing filled with well-beaten concrete and the whole carefully cemented with material mixed 3 to 1.

7. In addition to the above the mound of earth might be levelled. The elephant which forms the west stylobate of the Kalyana muntapum steps put back in its place,

and the steps reset in cement concrete, the stray idols collected and arranged in a row, and all loose stones carefully put on one side. These latter works should only be carried out under strict professional supervision.

8. *Vittala Swamy's Temple.*—This is without doubt one of the most interesting examples of Hindoo art in the south of India. Inferior to Vellore as a chaste and finished example of the sculptor's art, surpassed by Madura, Conjeeveram, Sreerungum, and many other places in the extent and variety of the structures forming the temple, the Vittala Swamy nevertheless contains two muntapums which stand unrivalled for graceful proportions and structural elaboration. I regret extremely that an attack of fever prevented me from giving that close critical examination which the subject demands, and I hope on some future occasion to propose restorative works which will eventually prevent further deterioration. Unfortunately the stone employed is of a chippy nature which cleaves on the least provocation. There are several lines of cleavage from the top to the bottom of certain pillars caused by superincumbent weight, and some of these columns will have to be supported at any sacrifice to appearance if the building is to be retained.

9. In the meantime I would embrace the opportunity of clearing the building of all vegetation and of stopping all leaks.

10. *The ruins generally.*—In addition to these two temples there are numerous other remains which possess even more interest to the Architect and Archaeologist from a curious admixture of northern and southern styles of art, and I consider it highly desirable that the vegetation should be removed at once from these buildings also.

11. *Cost of restorative measures.*—It is quite impossible to form any estimate of the probable cost of executing the work proposed to be undertaken at once, viz., removing vegetation and stopping leaks, but I would recommend that a grant of Rs. 500 should be made and placed at the disposal of the Department Public Works at Bellary, who might be placed in communication with me to receive instructions, and that reports be submitted from time to time through me and through the Collector of Bellary.

P.S.—I append an addendum by the Archaeological Surveyor to Madras.

ADDENDUM BY ROBERT SEWELL.

I beg to append the following few remarks to Mr. Chisholm's report as I was associated with him in the work of inspection.

2. Not being an architect I left all matters immediately connected with repairs and conservation to Mr. Chisholm, whose judgment may, I feel sure, be trusted. I inspected all that I could find time for carefully, but the place is so large and the ruins so scattered that very careful and lengthy examination is required. Believing that an Archaeological Surveyor will shortly be appointed for the Presidency, I did not prepare, nor had I the leisure to prepare, elaborate notes on subjects which he will be enabled to do far better than myself. But I derived great benefit personally from my visit and saw quite enough to show me that a trained architect and antiquary would find materials for months of work there. What special points I thought it desirable to notice will appear under the head of "Vijayanagar" in my printed lists of remains in the Presidency.

3. As to conservation I think it very essential that *as soon as possible* all vegetation should be carefully removed from the roots upwards from all walls, roofs, and sculptures. Great harm is being done by tree-roots, and this work might very well be carried out by the district officers *at once*. I strongly advise this. I quite concur with Mr. Chisholm in his proposals and I would add to his recommendation regarding the Vittala Swamy temple mundapums the following notes:—(1) There is a very unsightly erection in the middle of the larger of the two which greatly destroys the general effect. It is made of rough uncarved uprights and beams. If possible, this should be entirely removed. (2) The roof in the middle was originally covered in with very long flat slabs. Two only remain *in situ*. These ought to be kept in position to show the manner of roofing. I would make no attempt to replace those that are fallen.

(Signed) R. SEWELL,
on Special Duty,

No. 26-A. From the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, dated 3rd May 1881, No. 227.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1881, No. 1,255 W.

THE above reports will be communicated to the Collector of Bellary with a view to immediate measures being taken by that Officer for clearing away the encroaching vegetation from the ruins. This should be done with great care so as to prevent damage to the structures. The services of an intelligent maistry can probably be obtained on application to the Sub-Engineer at Bellary.

2. A grant of Rs. 200 is now made for the work from the Provincial Reserve. The money will be placed at the disposal of the Collector, who will be expected to attend to the conservation of the ruins till more complete arrangements for professional supervision can be made.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Collector of Bellary.

" Superintending Engineer, First Circle.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Public Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobt. of 1881; Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF BELLARY,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 17th.

Issued

Recd.

Enc

G. O., 17th May 1881, No. 1,255 W.

MAY.
Nos. 26-27.

Humpi Ruins. The Collector of Bellary
requested to take immediate measures for
clearing away the vegetation from the --.

No. 227
From

Supy. Engrs. Office of
Chapank 32 May/81.

Lt. Col. H. S. Prendergast R.E.
Superintending Engineer
1st Circle.

To The Chief Engineer.

Sir,

R. W. D.
Madras.

In reply to your Memo No. 32
of the 20th April 1881, I have the honor
to report that I have no one to depute
to superintend the removal of vegetation
from the Humpi ruins; the nearest
subordinates being in the Namool District.
An intelligent Ministry would probably
do what is wanted; and the Sub Engineer
at Bellary can probably find a man
of this class from those who have been
thrown out of employ. I would recommend
that the Collector should obtain assistance
in this way.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt. servant.
Wm. Prendergast R.E.
Superintending Engineer
1st Circle.

R. W. C. No. 2697

From

The Supy Surg.
of Genl.

L.

The Chief Engineer
M.D.
Madras

Dated 3rd May 1891
Recd

N. 227

Removal of Vegetation
from the Kumbapattinam

Recommending that
the collector of Bellary
be asked to attend to the

W. H. C. No. 2697
R. W. C. No. 2697

For orders

I do not think my
office? & of the
spirit, archaeological
and at present.

Captn's Dept. is in
it's infancy. We have
not yet got a regular
archaeologist in Madras.

The action of the
spiritual is a great
early result in the
if repairs were made
the cost details of
and to other, as might
very possibly be the case.

I don't understand
by the job. Did not
give them? This is the
of work on the occasion

I do not like to
delay the submission
of the accompanying
report regarding the
Hampi ruins by Messrs
Sewell and Christy
who have been enabled as I shall
wish to propose some
definite arrangement
in the execution of the
required work through
the agency of this
Department.

As the Govt. is aware
we have only a Sub-
division Officer at
Bellary and he could
not undertake any
work of the kind
performed, but if
there be in the present

confined to the removal of vegetation from all parts of the buildings, it is not improbable that the Collector with a small grant of say Rs 200 might have been in a position to have the work attended to till some complete arrangements can be made.

From the reports by Capt. Cole R.R. with to the S of S it would appear to be in an - contemplation to appoint definitely an Executive Engineer with salary so as to form an Archaeological division in each Presidency in work of this kind, and if this, which

of this visit, as the G.O. Director. Capt. Jot, place at his disposal a staff of men & clear away the encroaching vegetation. At present I have this done with as little delay as possible with care & prevent damage to the structures. If the services of an intelligent subordinate of P.W.D. & supervise operations of the work. I think it to be very advisable to employ him. Application can be made to G.O. as proposed for inf. as & appropriate means of destroying such vegetation but I think it to be more practically useful

& apply to Mr. Jm. Ammies & Mr. Jot & Mr. Burgess.

I have tried myself with ~~the~~ ^{Burgess} cutting off the growth of the thick brick stone work. being a small hole in the remaining vegetable growth. splashing off a small quantity of gunpowder in the hole. & this with success. But it needs discretion of the stone work may be shaken off.

W.P.C. 28/10/11

would certainly be the most satisfactory arrangement to be eventually made, all difficulties such as it was experienced would at once vanish as the Officer selected for duty in his special skills & taste in such matters would carry out all the work in a manner that is now quite unattainable with our ordinary staff. Indeed were such an arrangement proposed I could name at least one Officer who has special qualifications for the position. I do not know whether Govt. desires to address the S of S in this view? In any case it would I think be desirable

to ask the S. S. if
any methods which
have been followed in
killing vegetation in
old buildings, particularly
such trees as the *Ficus*
religiosa have proved
entirely successful, as
I must confess that
notwithstanding the
general expression one
hears so often of the
ease of the proceeding
even in such high
altitudes as the
frequency in the work
in Indian Architecture
I have never myself
seen complete success
attempts attempts to
remove vegetation

Att

12. 4. 81

FOR ORDERS.

Cir 6/8 07 p. 3

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

1255/6
Read the following:—

From the Supdy. Engineer, Civil
No: 227 dated 3rd May 1881.

FOR ORDERS.

W. Sankar

Colonel W. S.

Recd. to Govt. P. W. Dept.

Has to be kept in mind
that the only

who has performed
this work is
broken getting
vegetation in
M.

ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

1255/7
No. 36

CONSULTING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE,

Ceylon, 8th April 1881

Despatched 11th April 1881.

From

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT,

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCH.

S.E.

Enclosures: 1

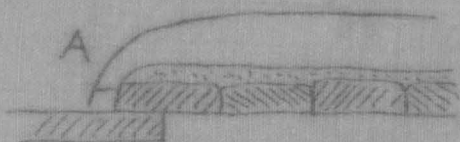
I have the honor to report that I visited Humpi
in accordance with the Order passed in G.O. No.
267 W. dated the 1st February 1881 and that I
inspected the Ancient remains in and about
the old City of Vezgiannigga.

I directed my particular attention to
Kulivankum Ringuarany and the Vittala
Swamy Temples.

The Kulivankum Ringuarany is in fair
preservation. In common with nearly all the
remains in this locality it is overgrown with
vegetation and looks badly.

The most interesting part of the Temple
architecturally speaking is the Kalyana
Mantapam on the left of the Entrance to the
Courtyard. The roof of this Mantapam is
constructed of stone Girders with flanges
and the stones forming the roof rest on

these flanges.



The concrete and brick terrace which invariably covers this form of roof does not extend beyond the point *A*. Thus leaving a gap in which numerous fissures admit the rain to the supports below.

The whole of the vegetation should be cut out as much as possible by the roots, the larger cracks in the roofing filled with well beaten concrete and the whole carefully cemented with material mixed 3 to 1.

In addition to the above the mound of earth might be levelled. The Elephant which forms the west stylobate of the Kalyana Munka-puram steps, put back in its place, and the steps reset in cement concrete, the stray Idols collected and arranged in a row, and all loose stones carefully put on one side. These latter works should only be carried out under strict professional supervision.

Vittala Swamy Temple. This is without doubt one of the most interesting examples of Hindoo art in the South of India. Superior to Vellore as a chaste and finished example of the sculptors art, surpassed by Madurai

1255
banjeriam Sperrungum and many other places in the extent and variety of the structures forming the Temple, the Vittala Swamy nevertheless contains two Munkapurams which stand unrivalled for graceful proportions and structural elaboration. I regret extremely that an attack of fever prevented me from giving that close critical examination which the subject demands, and I hope on some future occasion to propose restorative works which will eventually prevent further deterioration. Unfortunately the stone employed is of a chippy nature which cleaves on the least provocation. There are several lines of cleavage from the top to the bottom of certain pillars caused by superincumbent weight, and some of these columns will have to be supported at any sacrifice to appearance if the building is to be retained.

In the meantime I would embrace the opportunity of clearing the building of all vegetation and of stopping all leaks.

The Ruins generally. In addition to these two temples there are numerous other remains which possess even more interest to the Architect and Archaeologist from a curious admixture of Northern and Southern styles of Art, and I consider it highly desirable that the vegetation

should be removed at once from these buildings
also.

Cost of Restorative measures. It is quite
impossible to form any estimate of the probable
cost of executing the work proposed to be
undertaken at once, viz removing vegetation
and stopping leaks, but I would recommend
that a Grant of Rupees 500/- should be made
and placed at the disposal of the Department
Public Works at Bellary who might be placed
in communication with me to receive instructions
and ^{that} reports ^{be} submitted from time to time thro
me and through the Collector of Bellary.

I have the honor to be

Sir

your most obedt servt

W. H. Wilson

Consgr Archt. to Government

P.S. I append an Addendum of the
Archaeological Survey to Madras.

W. H.

P.O. No. 1344. of 6-9-80. P.W.
" " 2674. 1-2-81.

ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

P. H. C. No. 2321

From

The Consulting Architect
to Government,

To

The Chief Engineer, P. W. Department,
Buildings and Roads Branch.

No. 36

Dated 8th April 1881.
Despatches 11th April 1881.
Received

Ch. No. 32 of 30 April/81
" " 33 - 30 -

No. of ENCLOSURES. /

Report on visit to Humpi

126
1255
10
Final Addendum

by

Robert Sewell

I beg to append the following few remarks to Mr. Whisholm's Report, as I was associated with him in the work of inspection.

Not being an architect I left all matters immediately connected with repairs and conservation to Mr. Whisholm, whose judgment may, I feel sure, be trusted. I inspected all that I could find time for carefully, but the place is so large and the ruins so scattered that very careful and lengthy examination is required. Believing that an Archaeological Surveyor will shortly be appointed for the Presidency. I did not prepare, nor had I the leisure, to prepare, elaborate notes on subjects which he will be enabled to do far better than myself. But I derived great benefit personally from my visit, and saw quite enough to show me that a trained architect and antiquary would find

materials for months of work there. What special points I thought it desirable to notice will appear under the head of "Vijayanagar" in my printed lists of remains in the Presidency.

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Peru
on April 2nd

No. 1255 W.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17th May 1881

Read the following:—

From

The Engineer Architect
Government

(H.E. No 36 of 8th April/81.)

6 " Superintendent Engineer
1st Circle

(No. 227 of 3rd May ")

The above reports
will be communicated
to the Collector of
Bellary with a view
to immediate measures
being taken by that
officer for clearing
away the encroaching
vegetation from the
ruins. This should
be done with great
care so as to prevent

R.S.

damage to the structures.

The services of an intelligent masonry can probably be obtained on application to the Sub Engineer at Bellary.

2. A grant of Rs 200 is now made for the work from the Provincial Reserve. The money will be placed at the disposal of the collector, who will be expected to attend to the conservation of the ruins till more complete arrangements for professional supervision can be made.

103/5

To
The Collector
of Bellary
" Superintendent
" Esar P. M. A. C.
" Public Department

13/5/81

13/5/81

13/5/81

2321 13
2697

Gobt. of 1881 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
Dated
Issued
Recd. Encl.

G. O., 17 May 1881, No. 1253 W

Nos. 26 & 27

Kumpi Ruins - The Collr
of Bellary requested to
take immediate measures
for clearing away the
vegetation from the —