Archives I 10,006—16-8 77.

(1) Number of pages 74

18 (2) Date of repair 31.8.87

(3) Initials of the Referencer Lavs.

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PWD. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1120.W. Press.
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 5. 5. 1884. 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

37

1120
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following papers:—

Endorsement, No. 187, dated 28th January 1884, in the Public Department, on letter from the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, dated 19th January 1884, No. 49.
From the Consulting Architect to Government, dated 5th February 1884, No. 1466.
Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated 19th February 1884.
Endorsement, No. 27 E.W., dated 17th March 1884, of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, on letter from Mr. C. Vincent, dated 11th March 1884.
Endorsement, No. 4529, dated 31st March 1884, of the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, on letter from Major Drake-Brockman, R.E., dated 27th March 1884, No. 2427.
From Mr. C. Vincent, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, dated 4th April 1884.
From the Consulting Architect to Government, dated 18th April 1884, No. 76.

ORDER—dated 5th May 1884, No. 1120 W., Public Works.

In the letter read at the head of these proceedings, the Superintendent of the Central Museum brings to notice the badness of the woodwork used in the construction of the gallery which was sanctioned in G.O., dated 14th September 1882, No. 2378 W.

2. Surgeon-Major Bidie's complaints in this matter are in the main confirmed by the Chief Engineer, who condemns the material and workmanship of the flooring in the new gallery, and of the windows by which it is lighted.

3. Owing to the frequent changes in the post of Consulting Architect during 1883, it is not easy to apportion the responsibility for the bad work. On the 16th April, Mr. Chisholm handed over charge of the office to Mr. Vincent; and, during the absence of the latter at Simla, from 20th August to 15th October, Major Brockman was in charge. The purchase of the timber appears to have been made by Mr. Chisholm, and the work was executed under Mr. Vincent and Major Brockman. In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, these three officers must share the discredit for the bad work.

4. During the entire period of construction, the sub-divisional officer in charge of the work was Mr. J. H. Stephens, Honorary Assistant Engineer; and the Government regret that they cannot consider his explanation sufficient to exculpate him altogether from blame.

5. It is in some measure satisfactory to learn that several of the defects complained of have been already remedied; and that the work, though rough and inferior in finish, is sufficiently strong for the purpose.

6. The Consulting Architect will report upon the difficulties which appear to be experienced in procuring an adequate supply of well-seasoned timber, and will state what measures he recommends in view to the removal of those difficulties.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" Public Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.
Spare Copies

1120/2

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated May, 5th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 5th May 1884, No. 1120 W.

MAY.

Government Central Museum

Censuring officers concerned in the badness of the woodwork used in the construction of the gallery at the —.

1120/3

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 109.

READ—the following papers :—

G.O., dated 25th August 1882, No. 814, Public.

Read—the following letter from Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 18th August 1882, No. 764 :—

IN continuation of my letter, No. 218 of 9th March 1882, explaining the necessity for additional space in the Museum, I have the honor to submit a plan and estimate for proposed additions, prepared by the Consulting Architect to Government.

2. In my previous communication it was suggested that the additional accommodation might be economically secured by roofing in certain well-like spaces on the upper floor of the building; but the Government Architect was of opinion that this would interfere with the lighting and ventilation of some of the other rooms.

3. He therefore proposes to erect a light gallery in the large barn-like room now occupied with specimens of mammals and birds, and this suggestion would have the advantages of providing additional space at a moderate cost and of improving the appearance of a hall which is not in harmony, as regards its architectural features, with the other rooms in the building.

4. It is unnecessary to again enter into detail regarding the need for additional accommodation, suffice it to say that it is urgently required to enable me to show typical collections of many of the raw and industrial products of the country. I am also most desirous to increase the ethnological collections in the direction of personal ornaments and articles illustrative of the manners and customs of the people. At present there is not a spare inch available for this purpose, and when the Amrávati marbles are set up a large number of articles now on view must be buried in the godowns if more room be not provided.

5. There has been no addition to the exhibition rooms of the Museum since 1863 or 1864, but the new Library and Lecture Hall were erected in 1875.

6. I have gone carefully over the proposed plan and, so far as I am able to judge, the proposal of the Consulting Architect is the best that could be devised under existing circumstances.

———

Order—dated 25th August 1882, No. 814, Public.

Approved; and transferred to the Public Works Department for the issue of further orders.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Acting Under Secretary.

No. 1599 C.

Retransmitted to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, in view to the plan and estimate being countersigned, and these papers returned to this office as early as possible.

(By Order.)

(Signed) A. S. RUSSELL,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.
Irrigation Branch

2nd September 1882.

No. 110.

Order—dated 14th September 1882, No. 2378 W., Public Works.

The estimate, amounting to Rs. 11,615, for providing additional accommodation in the Government Central Museum, Madras, is sanctioned for execution when funds are available.

2. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 105 W. of 1882-83 and classified as Civil Buildings, Original Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Consulting Architect to Government, with Plan and Estimate.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts, with Abstract Estimate.
" Public Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

1120/4

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1882} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 14th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 14th Sept. 1882, No. 2378 W.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 109-110.

Government Central Museum, Madras.

Estimate, amounting to Rs. 11,615, for providing additional accommodation in the —, sanctioned.

7TH SEPTEMBER 1883, No. 2516 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

1120/5

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from Major R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, R.E., Officiating Consulting Architect to Government, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 28th August 1883, No. 610 :—

I have the honor to submit, for approval and sanction, an estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,872, for certain repairs to be executed at the Government Central Museum.

2. The nature of the work to be done is explained in the report attached to the estimate.

ORDER—dated 7th September 1883, No. 2516 W., Public Works.

The estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,872, for executing certain repairs to the Government Central Museum at Madras, is sanctioned.

2. A sum of Rs. 1,872 is transferred from the Provincial Reserve with Government to Repairs, Civil Buildings, and placed at the disposal of the Consulting Architect.

3. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 112 W. of 1883-84 and classified as Civil Buildings, Repairs.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Consulting Architect to Government, with three Enclosures.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
" Public Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1883} Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 7th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 7th Sept. 1883, No. 2516 W.

SEPTEMBER.

Government Central Museum

Estimate for certain repairs to the — at Madras, sanctioned, and funds placed at the disposal of the Consulting Architect.

Government Central Museum
Egmore
Madras 19th January 1884.

No 49

1120
6

From

Brigade Surgeon George Bidie M.B. & I.E.
Superintendent Government Central
Museum

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honour with reference to G.O. Public Works Department No 2378 W. of the 14th September 1882 to report to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the gallery referred to in the above is completed, but the timber used is so inferior and the workmanship so bad that I hesitate to take charge of it pending the orders of Government

2/ During the progress of the work a letter, copy of which is attached, was sent to the Consulting architect pointing out various objectionable features, but I am not aware that it had any influence beyond stirring up the Contractor to a more liberal use of putty to hide defects.

3/ The parts to which I specially object may be summarised as follows:—

a The timber of the flooring of the gallery is in very short lengths, consists largely of the outer inferior portions of logs, and appears to be chiefly boards rejected from some larger work. In some places it is positively dangerous as a heavy weight might fall through.

b The laying of the flooring I can only characterise as disgraceful, as the planing is badly done and the seams are already gaping widely. In fact the boards do not appear to have been jointed in the usual way.

c The railing of the gallery is also badly finished

d The wood used for the Stairs is old wood from some other building, and finished in a very rough and careless manner.

e The new windows put in fit so badly that when it rains the water rushes in freely and would damage anything exposed in the gallery. The bolts also are bad, and owing to this and the warping of the wood do not secure the windows properly.

4 In conclusion I have to express regret that works so much at variance with the other parts of the building should have been introduced, and to state that if it were executed in any building belonging to me privately I would neither accept nor pay for it.

1120

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,

Leslie Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

26/9/82 Dc 1045 Irns Pub.

No. 187

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

(By order)

Ag Under Secy.

28/1/84

Public (1884) Department.

CURRENT NO.

From

The Superintendent
Government Central
Museum

CHIEF ENGINEER
21 FEB
1884
FOR IRRIGATION

No. 49
Encl-1
Rec'd 19 Jany
Dated 19th January
Desp'd — do — 1884
Read
Rec'd 29 Jan

No

CHIEF SECRETARY
21 JAN 84
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Subject.

Requesting the order of Government to take charge of the gallery completed after bringing into their notice several defects in the workmanship and the inferiority of the timber used.

Transferred

P. W. D.

Consulting Architect's Office,
Chepauk, Madras,
5th February 1884.

No. 1466

1120/8

From

The Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras.

To

The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Sir,

Enclosures.

3 Letters

+ 22 c
30/1/84

With reference to endorsement No 187 dated 28th January 1884 on letter from Superintendent Government Central Museum complaining of the work done at that building I have the ho to report on the Superintendent's complaints.

2 The letter addressed by the Superintendent to this Office of which he encloses a copy was replied to by my Predecessor who said that the matter was receiving his attention. I enclose a copy of Mr Vincent's letter.

3 I will now enter on the several complaints made by the Superintendent:—

his complaint a, the wood, though its appearance is against it, was I believe fairly good when obtained from the Contractor and does not, I think, merit the fault found with it. In no part do I consider it dangerous. There is nothing to shew that the wood was rejected from some other work.

The Contractor who supplied it also supplied the Telegraph Office and other large works elsewhere. The wood was procured from this Contractor (Mr J. R. Goodair) after public tender, his being the only one submitted. At that time teak timber was scarce,

Complaint b I think the Superintendent is here not fully acquainted with the facts. The flooring consists of two layers of $\frac{3}{4}$" planking both tongued and grooved and laid breaking joint. The wood appears fairly seasoned and the gapes not more than often occur, but the tongueing and grooving of the thin planks has in many places failed & and the sides of the Groove split, from the repairs to which the floor presents an unsightly appearance. As the flooring consists of 2 layers of thin planking the tongueing and grooving of both layers was I consider an error.

Complaint c I think the railing need not be objected to. It presents a handsome appearance.

Complaint d The statement that the stains were obtained from some other building is correct; they were transferred from the present P. W. Offices and though in appearance rough are strong. Work transferred necessarily does not look like new.

Complaint e These windows might have been made better. I have ordered a portion of them to be removed and new sashes to be put in with proper bolts.

4. As perhaps it may be desired I beg to send herewith the Order book kept on the work. The work was begun in February 1883. Mr Chisholm left Madras in April and had nothing whatever to do with the execution of the wood work complained of. But the timber was all purchased when he was in charge. Mr Vincent took charge in April 1883. The work was finished, all except the painting, before I took charge. Mr J. H. Stephens Honorary assistant Engineer was in immediate charge of the work throughout.

1120/9

5. In conclusion I may add that there is nothing whatever to prevent the Superintendent placing his cases on the Gallery. The work is quite strong. In time the rough and unequal appearances of the work will not be noticeable. When the window sashes are renewed (which will be done very shortly) there will be nothing left to which serious exception can be taken.

I have the honor to be

sir

your most obedt servant.

J. H. Morant. Major R.E.

Offg Consg Archt to Govermt

No 2378 W a/14.9.82.
" 2503 W a/26.9.82.
" 2516 W a/7.9.83
" 22 C a/30.1.84

P. W. D.

Roads and Buildings.

From

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

The Chief Engineer P.W.D.
& Roads & Buildings branch.

CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. & IRRIGATION

No. 1466

Dated 20th February 1884

Received

No 1120 W a/5

No. OF ENCLOSURES. 3

Subject.

Regarding the defects in workmanship and inferiority of timbers in the new Gallery erected at the Govt. Central Museum.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1120/W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

READ the following

Letter from the Consg. Archt.
to Government No. 1466 a/5 Feby/84.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Supt. Govt. Central Museum with reference to his letter No. 49 a/19 January/84 to the Chief Secretary to Govt.

To

The Supt. Govt.
Central Museum.

Vide
Ulo 3346

3/51

Government Central Museum
Egmore
Madras 19th October 1888.

No 904

From

1120
19

The Superintendent
Government Central Museum

To

The Consulting Architect to
Government Chepauk.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the boards being put down as flooring in the new gallery, under construction here, are very inferior wood and much patched, and altogether such as I have never seen in any permanent Government building before. The top bars on the two end sections of the railing of the gallery are also much patched and repaired with putty. It is also observed that the large beams supporting the structure do not always rest solidly on the top of the iron pillars, and that some of the small transverse beams are of inferior wood. I deem it better to bring these defects to notice now while the work is in hand.

I have &c
(Signed) L. Bidie Brigade Surgeon
Supdt Govt. C. Museum.

True

(Same Copy)

0511
11

Scott Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

CHIEF ENGINEER
21 FEB
1884
FOR IRRIGATION

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Consulting Architect 4
E I 11
S E V Circle 7
Public Depart 7
29

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H.E. Sullivan — 1
H. C.G. Inspector — 1
H.E. the Civil Chief 1
I 1
R 1
Other Departments 1
S A W 1
H C 1
Dy W 1
Dy I 1
R K 1
14

1120
13

To W

I would suggest the following for para 4 of the draft.

"The Govt are not disposed to attach an undue share of blame to Mr J.H. Stephens, the Subdivisional officer in immediate Charge of the work. He apparently endeavoured to overcome as far as possible the defects of the material which he had to work on or to."

4/11 W
K.S.
30.4.81.

I have added one word to the draft with Mr additions. Hon. Member is perfectly satisfied.
Mr S.O. can issue now

1120/14

Government Central Museum
CURRENT No. 5

No 218.

Madras 9th March 1882.

1120/15

From

Surgeon Major George Bidie M.B.,
Superintendent Government Central
Museum

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the necessity that exists for an addition to the accommodation of the Museum.

2/ For some time past the available space has been getting inadequate, and it is now positively necessary that more room be provided. During the last few years we have been sending to various Exhibitions raw products, metal work, textile fabrics, and a variety of other articles which may be classed as examples of Indian art, and although these have attracted much attention in other countries and found a place in foreign museums, I regret to say that they are almost unrepresented here simply for want of room to exhibit specimens. Foreigners visiting Madras, either for scientific or trade purposes, reasonably expect to find in the Museum typical examples

of

of the more remarkable and common art productions and raw products of Southern India, and go away greatly disappointed when they find, that complete illustrative collections do not exist. Austria, Russia, Germany are all making strenuous efforts to render their people familiar with the merits of the raw materials and industrial products of India, so that it is very necessary that we, as being most interested in the country, should take active steps in the same direction.

3/ The departments of the Museum most hampered for want of space are those of industrial botany, and of artistic productions in metal, cotton, wood &c, and collections of personal ornaments and of things illustrative of the manners and customs of the people.

4/ The arrangement which I have now to propose with the view of getting more room is one that would involve but little expense, and would yet increase very materially our accommodation. Immediately behind and in contact with the upper story of the Museum, there are two flat roofs each of which measures 60 by 19½ feet. These could be easily converted into rooms, inasmuch as each is on two sides bounded by the walls of the upper floor of the Museum, 22½ feet in height, and on the third side by a wall 9 feet high. If the latter were crowned with iron pillars and a trestsummer, to bring it up to the same level as the 22½ feet wall, a light roof could be thrown across, and thus, with the carrying out of a few minor details, we should at once have two additional rooms. 1120/10

5/ As the matter is urgent I would venture to beg, that the Government Architect be instructed to at once prepare plans and an estimate of the cost of the proposed additions, with the view of their being carried out early in the coming official year.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

Edgar Thurston Surgeon Major
Superintendent Government Central
Museum.

14/2/79 Acts 72-73 Pub.
2/4/78 Act 522.—

P. W. C. No. 1704

Public (1882) Department.
(Museums)

From

The Superintendent
Government Central
Museum

P.D.
MAP 62

No. 218
DISPOSED OF
15 MAR 82 Rabbie
Dated 9th March
Rec'd 9 — 82 BY P.D. No. 285

CURRENT No. 5445

No.

Subject

Submitting certain proposals for the increase of accommodation in the Government Central Museum, and requesting the issue of orders for the preparation of the necessary plans & estimates for the same.

I. G. Lyell
14/3
Endorsed

No. 718
15 March 82, No. 285.

Rabbie

Appeared and transferred to the P.W. dept. in which the Consulting Architect will be called on to prepare plan and Estimate & the necessary funds will be provided from the P.W. Head. Service.

10 March

Under Secy

To the Secy. P.W.D.
for Consideration.

16.3.82

Civ 17/3 14/3/82

No. 484

Consulting Architects Office
Chepauk 22d September 1882

1120/17

From

The Consulting Architect
to Government

To

The Deputy Chief Engineer, P.W.D.
Roads and Buildings branch

Sir,

Enclosures /

With reference to G.O. No. 2378 W Public Works I have the honor to return the letter from the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum to the Chief Secretary to Government forwarded to me with your endorsement dated 16th March 1882 as the plans and Estimate were submitted direct by Dr. Bidie

I have the honor to be
sir
your most obedt. servant

Consulting Archt. to Govt.

those who were concerned
in carrying them out.

The windows on the east
side have been greatly
improved by Major Morant;
and when those on the
west side have been
similarly treated, there
will not remain much
room for complaint.

The flooring is roughly
laid, and far from what
it should have been; but
I have assured the Supt.
that I see no reason to
anticipate danger of any
kind; and, as represented
by Major Morant, time
will doubtless correct
the unequal

1120/20

appearance of the work.

With respect to the officers
responsible for the bad work.
Mr. Chisholm made over
charge of the Consulting
Architect's office to Mr.
Vincent on the 16th April
1883; and Mr. Vincent was
in turn relieved by
Major Morant on the
30th October 1883. The
work which I have
animadverted on was
executed during Mr.
Vincent's incumbency of
the post. The sub-divi-
-sional officer in charge
has been Mr. J.H. Stephens.

P. MacNaughton Col RE
19-2-84 Chief Engineer PWD

S.C. Jno

CHIEF ENGINEER
2 FEB
R. 4
FOR IRRIGATION

Chepauk, 17th April 1884

No. 33

1120/21

To

The Consulting Architect
to the Government of Madras

Sir,

With reference to the Chief Engineer's Memorandum No. 693 D of 8th Instant, I beg to inform, that the wood to the Government Central Museum, was supplied by Mr. Goodsir immediately after I joined this Division. I was then a stranger to this place, and knew nothing about the Contractor, but as he was one of the largest suppliers to the Post and Telegraph Office works, and had done a great deal of work in this Division, I had every reason to believe him to be a reliable man. Of the wood supplied by him, some was bad and was immediately rejected. Only such portions of wood that appeared sound were retained, and better wood, I believed, could not be procured anywhere else in Madras, for the same rates. Afterwards,

Enclosures 5

when more wood was required, and this Contractor was asked to supply it, he refused to do so, which he would not have done, had he made a profit by the transaction.

2 Teak wood was at that time very scarce, and I believe that even importations to Madras had ceased altogether, so that the Consulting Architect was obliged to send to other ports, and buy what wood he could get, to keep up the progress of his works. Though tenders were publickly called for, no one, except Mr Goodsir, would even venture to submit a tender, as all seemed afraid to have any thing to do with wood.

3 The wood supplied by Mr Goodsir, though sound, was, I regret to say, not seasoned, as seasoned wood could not then, and cannot even now, be got any where in the Madras market. Unless wood is purchased and kept in stock for several years to season, it cannot be relied upon. Even at the Public Works Workshop, a stock of wood, that may be drawn upon when required, is not kept for seasoning. The only Government institution, where wood is bought and kept for several years to season, is the

1120/22

Gun Carriage Manufactory of the Ordnance Department. As you are aware, I lately tried to get some wood for my works from this place, but did not succeed. The Cabinet makers of Madras, purchase and stock their godowns with wood for seasoning, and allow it to remain there for several years, before they attempt to use it, but this wood they never sell.

4 A good wooden flooring, more than any other description of wood work, requires well seasoned wood, because unlike other wood work, it is neither painted, oiled nor varnished. In the Senate House, and the Post and Telegraph Offices, the Consulting Architect purchased the wood for the floors, as soon as the buildings were first sanctioned. When the basements were raised, the boards were laid down roughly and loosely, and the Coolies allowed to trample on them. After the Completion of the buildings, which took several years, the boards were taken up, planed smooth, feathered, and nailed down

permanently. By this means the boards had ample time to season, and made very good floors. Had I had sufficient time to do all this at the Museum, the flooring would, I think, have presented a different appearance, but the work was hurried.

5 According to the plan and estimate, the flooring Consists of two planks 3/4 inch thick each, instead of one board of 1½ inch thick, as in other floors. These thin boards are more liable to twist when exposed, than thick ones. The sides were also grooved and tongued, which reduced the thickness of the lips of the planks to only ¼ inch. These curled up or split away when exposed. It is the remedying of this which has given the flooring a rough appear-ance, for which I feel very sorry. The grooving and tonguing of such thin planks, gave a great deal of additional work and trouble, and at the end only spoiled the appearance of what would otherwise have been good work. Had the wood been well seasoned, probably even this would not have occured.

6 The light glass ventilators and

1120/23

Carved ornamental hand rails, are really Cabinet work. No Cabinet maker would attempt to carry out such work with ordinary market teak. He would have used teak, that had seasoned in his godowns, for some years. The Public Works Department not having any depôt of seasoned wood, the best had to be made with a not very high Class materials.

7 I feel very sorry for all the trouble this work has given. It has been to me a cause of very great anxiety, and I have tried to do the best I could by it. I had some of the planks taken up, and others put in more than once, but this did not improve matters much in appearance, though the work is quite sound and strong in every respect.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servt

J. W. A. Stephens

P. W. D.

Consulting Architect's Office,
Chepauk, Madras,
18th April 1884.

1120/24

No.

From

The Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras,

To

The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Sir,

Enclosures.

17file of papers
1. Letter.

I have the honor to submit for your favorable consideration a letter in original received from Honorary Assistant Engineer Mr. T. H. Stephens explaining the cause of the complained of work done at the Govt. Central Museum and return the papers received with your memo No. 693 D. dated 8th instant.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient Servant

Major R. E.
Offg: Consulting Architect to Govt

To W for orders.

CE/SII
14.4.1884

P. W. D.

Roads and Buildings.

(1)

From

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

To

The Chief Engineer P.W.D.

No. 76

Dated 18th April 1884.

Received

A No. 1120 Weg 5-5-84

No. of Enclosures 2

Subject.

Forwards Mr. Stephens Explanation regarding the bad woodwall executed at the Goat. Central Museum.

P.W. 2w 2516W Dy 7/9/83
" " 2378W " 14/9/82
712e. " 22/3/84
810c. " 3/4/84
693D. " 8/4/84
222c. " 30/1/84
418c. " 20/2/84
P.W. 2w 2503W Dy 26/9/82

P.S. 32/4. Cir 25/4.

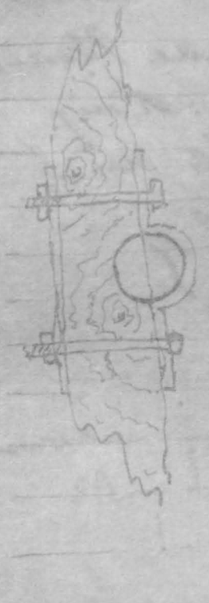
Dy. 19/4/84.

Begun in Febry 83

Order Book R. Government

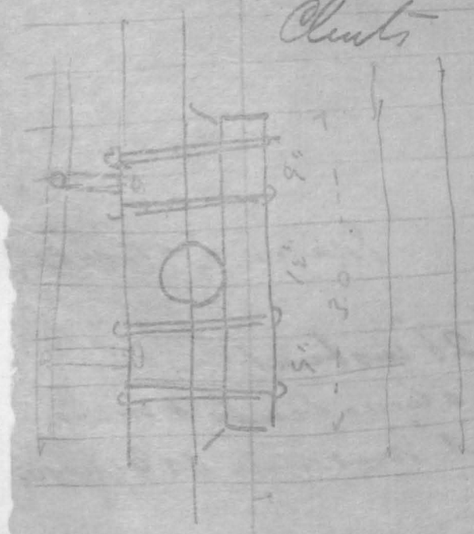
Museum —

1120/26



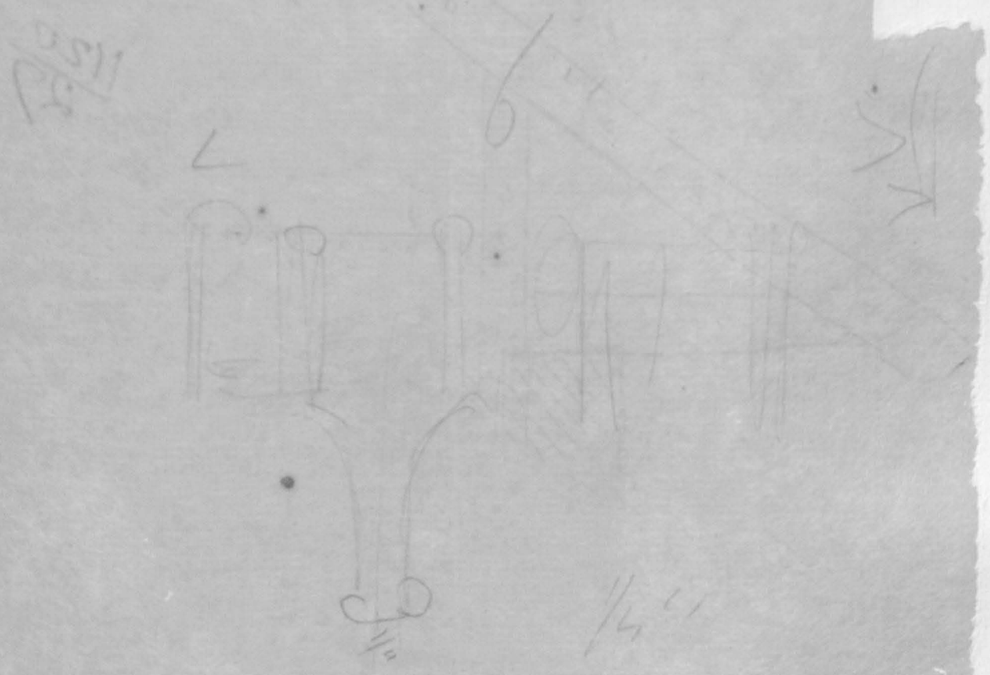
Sir

Some of the new Cast iron Column girders over the Main Entrance have broken. The girders are 6"×9" and 3 metres long. The breadth is cut as much as possible to receive them. The round columns on one side and stand up inside as others side forward by iron bolts as per sketch. Please inform if this will be sufficient.

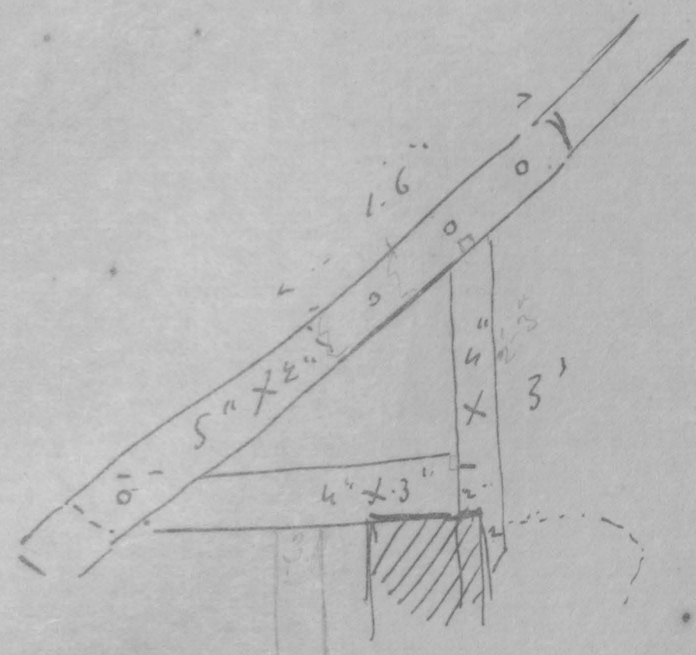


Put a fish plate 9" × 3" with Cleats bolt with 4 ¾" bolts

Fountain Pipe



5th April 83

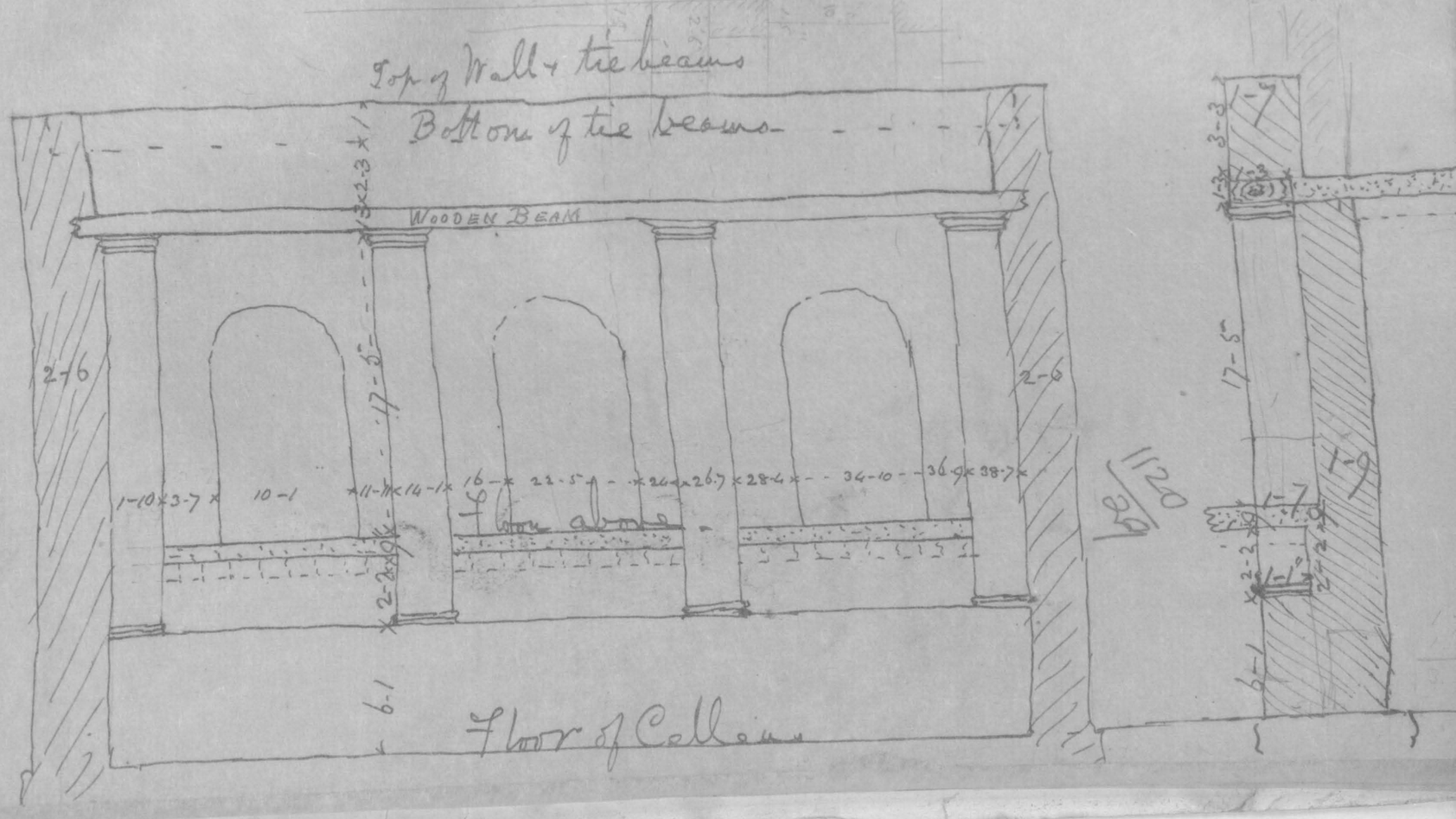


1120/28

5th April 83

Museum ——— Elevation of South Wall

Section D.



Relieving arches to be put in on each side over both 2nd 3rd & 4th openings from the South side, Arches to be semicircular, 1½ brick.

do do, but segmental arches to be put in over entrance doorways on North side, 2 bricks thick.

The about cracks to be very carefully filled in cement

C. Vuille

April 23/83.

1120/30

Put relieving arches over all the openings except those on the South side.

30/4. Cm

Commence to raise your timbers from South side where relieving arches are already turned.

JWJ 30/4/83

Remove roofing & old North verandah and put in relieving arches over doorways. Old rafters to be made over to the Erector Engrs people and their receipt submitted.

JWJ 9/5/83

Cross. beam between pillars on the South side, the sloping rafter being rearfed & notched on to this cross. beam.

Go on with the relieving arches on the North side, doing anything that is necessary as to the removal of the rafters & the sloping off roof of the office room.

Fill in round window on North side

10/5. Cm

It would be better to complete
the wood. work of the roof before
beginning the tiling & then to do the
tiling as a whole.
Just one bay of the roof is now being
tiled which is not a very satisfactory
way of working. However under the
circumstances explained by the contractor
the work may go on as at present.

C. Vincent

May 28. 83.

I must have the pattern for the railing
Complete without further delay.
It will be well to have the holes for
the columns cut thro' the floor at once.
They seem to cut thro' the joists in
places a little rearrangement of
them may be necessary.

12/6.

Brass Rods
Bent & Varnished

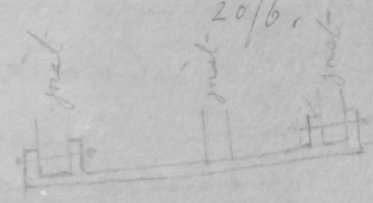
P.S. 32/4. Cir 25/4.

1120/31

The woodwork of roof must be cleaned
& wood oiled all over. The latter, I am told,
is not provided in the estimate

C.

20/6.



Copy to Messrs. Vincents & Waller

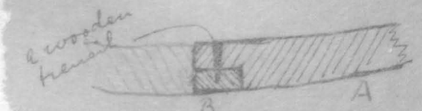
gallery beams over columns.

Have a square abutment in centre of column
with a fish plate (1½ × ¼) between each two
with two ½ inch bolts on each side.
Reject the one beam as pointed out.
At the ends of the room carry one long beam
from the last column but one to the wall.
The cross beam will then rest on this with
a joint of this sort.



C. Vincent

26/7.



2511
1c

I only meant the joint on the previous page. To be for the beam at the ends of the room for the side beams & square abutment in both. No alteration in the existing arrangement need however be made now.

The beam A (side sketch) should bear on 1/3 of the width of the top of the column.

7/8

As the joints between some of the beams have been altered in a way I did not intend, & which has very much diminished the strength of the beams, a fish plate of 7/16 thick iron must now be added across each joint on both sides



1120
32



It may be made thus of 1/4 inch iron, the whole depth of the beam. There will be two similar fish-plates at each corner, each bolt of course at right angles. These must be got ready at once.

13/8

The slate Case work is going on very slowly - not even a single plank has been fixed - The rails to gallery seem also to be at a stand still - Mr Burn will report at once the exact date on which these works will be completed - If he cannot finish on faster some other arrangement must be made

J W Stephen
8/9/83

Wood oiling to old trusses done very badly - This should be done over again at once - Some body should be put onto it to cover up the white marks &c

PMT
7/9/83

Complete all upper work first viz - Boarding - Hand rails to gallery - Venetians, and painting above, so that Mr Biddle may exhibit the things he wants & Varnishing to Hand rails - New hand rails to stair cases - Painting below, can be done after words - The first mentioned works Mr Burn says can be done by the 25th and in this he should not fail -

PMT
20/9/83

1120/33

Mr Burns Carpenters reduced in Numbers from 14 to 8 while work is altogether incomplete - He should increase and not decrease the number 8 Carpenters and stop them all at once immediately the work is fully complete and not before that time

PMT
5/10/83

Weather boards to bottom of upper windows should be fixed at once

PMT

Improvements - Painting 2d Coat to lower portion of Galleries can be gone on with at once - The paint should have a very thick body - The new pillars should also be painted at once -

PMT
6/10/83

I am exceedingly disappointed on returning after two months absence to find that the proposed work has been very slow. Nothing has been done that might not have been done in a fortnight.

To mark my sense of the want of progress I shall fine Mr Ross £100 which will be deducted from his next pay bill. I will be very much disappointed if the work is not completed in the first week in October when I intend another expedition will be ready to be installed with [illegible] to be installed and treated.

C. Kinnaird

18/10.

1:20
34

The new tiles at the South end should be removed and the old tiles from the Persian North used in their place - This should be done at once - Very great care should be taken in laying them -

MH
3/11/83

Water temp and carefully level the surface of sand and relay old boards at once - Do this very carefully laying the boards quite close together - Ends of boards must not lift

MH
5/11/83

To prevent soaking through new tiles have the lower or shank tiles dipped in lime and dried before put up -

MH
6/11/83

No. 1120 W. P.W. Dept. Read 5th May 84

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 5th May 84
Read the following:—

1120/37

Endorsement in the Public Dept. on letter from the Supt. Gov. Central Museum No. 49 d/ 19th Jany. 1884 } (M.E. No. 187 d/ 28th Jany. 1884)
From the Consg. Architect to Govt. — (" " 1466 d/ 5th Febry. — " —)
Note by the Chief Engineer P.W.D. — (" " — d/ 19th " " —)
Endorsement of the Chief Engr. for Surgr. on letter from Mr. Vincent d/ 11th March 84 } (" " 27 Ex. d/ 17th March —)
Endorsement of the S.E.V. Circle on letter from Major Drake Brockman R.E. No. 2427 d/ 27/3/84 } (" " 4529 d/ 31st " " —)
From Mr. C. Vincent Ex. Engr. P.W.D. — (" " — d/ 4th April —)
From the Consg. Architect to Govt. — " " 76 d/ 18th " " —

In the letter read at the head of these Proceedings the Supt. of the Central Museum brings to notice the badness of the woodwork used in the construction of the gallery which was sanctioned in G.O. dated 14th September 1882, No. 2978 W.

2. Surgeon Major Bidie's complaints in this matter are in the main confirmed by the Chief Engineer, who condemns the material & workmanship of the flooring in the new gallery, and of the windows by which it is lighted.

3. Owing to the frequent changes in the post of Consulting

P.W. 32/4.

Architect during 1883, it is not easy to apportion the responsibility for the bad work. On the 16th April, W. Chisholm handed over charge of the office to Mr. Vincent; and, during the absence of the latter at Simla, from 20th August to 15th October, Major Brockman was in charge. The purchase of the timber appears to have been made by Mr. Chisholm; and the work was executed under Mr. Vincent & Major Brockman. In the opinion of H.E. the Governor in Council, these three officers must share the discredit for the bad work

4- During the entire period of construction, the Sub-Divisional Officer in charge of the work was Mr. J. H. Stephens, Honorary Assistant Engineer; and the Govt. regret that they cannot consider his explanation sufficient to exculpate him altogether from blame.

Could at first be tried down a little. Method bad & material & work with the only blame that can be attached to him is his not having brought the fact to notice. Perhaps he forgot it.

He did.

Explained to the Hon. Members satisfactory

30/4

1120/86

5- It is in some measure satisfactory to learn that several of the defects complained of have been already remedied; and that the work, though rough and inferior in finish, is sufficiently strong for the purpose.

6. The Consulting Architect will report upon the difficulties which appear to be experienced in procuring an adequate supply of well-seasoned timber, and will state what measures he recommends in view to the removal of those difficulties.

24-4-84

3-4-84

C.A. to Govt.
C.E. for I.
S.E. 2nd Circle
Sabai Deptt.

30 APR 84

3346 d/a

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

(37)

Dated

Read. Rect.

G.O., 5 May 1884, No. 1120 WW

Lost Cantonment Museum

Concerning officers Concerned in the badness of the wood work used in the Construction of the Gallery at the

5-5

G. Fords to Remit Rs