

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.

JUDICIAL

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 10th September 1884, No. 2318.

SEPTEMBER.

High Court—New Buildings.

Requesting certain gentlemen to form themselves into a committee with a view to report as to the site in Madras best suited for the proposed new High Court buildings, and directing the Consulting Architect to Government to submit, as soon as possible, plans for the same.

attorneys and merchants. At the same time it is desirable that it should be at such a distance from the active operations of the port that business may not be interrupted by the noise attendant on those operations. It seems desirable that Government should appoint a committee for the purpose of selecting a site.

ENCLOSURES.

From J. W. HANDLEY, Esq., Chief Judge, Small Cause Court, Madras, to the Acting Registrar, Appellate Side, dated Madras, 10th March 1884, No. 2196.

In reply to your letter of 20th ultimo, No. 612, I have the honor to state as follows.

2. All the courts in which the Judges and Registrar of this court sit are open to the objection that they are entirely shut out from the sea breeze, and are therefore very hot in the hot weather. In other respects the Chief Judge's Court is reasonably commodious. The Second Judge's Court is very dark and badly ventilated, and does not afford sufficient accommodation for the bar and suitors. The Third Judge's Court is unpleasantly near the High Court latrine and urinal, the stench from which during the southerly wind which prevails for so much of the year is sometimes very bad. The Registrar's Court is wholly inadequate for the large number of suitors and applicants in execution proceedings resorting to it.

3. The private apartments of the Judges have the same defect as the courts in being completely shut out from the sea breeze. In other respects they are sufficient for the purpose. The Registrar's private room is very small and inconvenient and quite unfit for the purpose for which it is used.

4. The office accommodation is utterly insufficient for the present office establishment and is most inconvenient for suitors; in fact the part of the building occupied by the chief clerk and all the rest of the establishment is more fitted for a store godown than for a public office, to which the public resort daily in hundreds.

5. We also require further room for storing attached property, and stalls and stabling for live stock under attachment.

6. Perhaps our most urgent want is that of a proper record room. The number of records to which daily reference has to be made is enormous, and the want of a proper record room seriously impedes the business of the court and is the cause of frequent loss of papers and other irregularities which would not occur if there were a proper record room or rooms where they would be under the record establishment's complete control.

STATEMENT showing generally what accommodation will be required in the proposed new building for the High Court.

Five court rooms { 2 Appellate.
.. .. . { 2 Original.
.. .. . { 1 Chamber.

12 rooms for six Judges (chamber work and retiring rooms).

5 do. (two for Registrars and three for Deputy and Assistant Registrars).

1 room for Judge's clerk, Original Side.

Accommodation for about ten ministerial officers and about 150 clerks in small and large rooms respectively.

Record rooms.

Library room.

Bar

Solicitors'

Vakils'

Attorneys'

Jury

Witnesses' room.

Court-keeper's room.

Messengers'

Tiffin rooms for office.

Stabling for 36 horses.

Coach houses for 20 carriages.

Latrines, &c.

Besides the above provision will have to be made for the following law officers of Government and their offices:—

The Advocate-General.

„ Government Pleader.

„ „ Solicitor.

„ „ Crown Prosecutor.

The Sheriff.

„ High Court Reporter.

„ Official Assignee.

(Signed) J. A. DAVIES,
Ag. Registrar, Appellate Side.

MADRAS,
22nd July 1884.

ORDER—dated 10th September 1884, No. 2318, Judicial.

His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to request the marginally-noted gentlemen to form themselves into a committee, with power to add to their number, the Hon. the Chief Justice presiding, with a view to report to Government as to the site in Madras best suited in their opinion for the proposed new High Court buildings. The Consulting Architect to Government will, with reference to G.O., 14th August 1875, No. 1786, Judicial, report whether any plans have been prepared of the proposed buildings, and if not he is directed to prepare and submit, as soon as possible, plans for the same.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Honorable the Chief Justice of the High Court, with file of G.Os., on the subject.

„ Advocate-General.
„ Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.
„ Superintending Engineer, Madras.
„ Consulting Architect to Government.
„ President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.
„ Collector of Madras.
„ Registrar of the High Court.

Copy to the Public Works department.

Order thereon No: 2423 W of 15th October/84.
Communicated for information
to the Supt Engineer & Civil and the
Consulting Architect.
2. The Consulting Architect will
report as soon as possible, on the point
referred to him; but, pending the receipt
of further orders, he will defer the
preparation of new plans.
/ True Extract /
/ By J. Shaw Stewart, Colonial Secy.
Secy Govt. P. W. Dept.
To the Chief Architect of Govt.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

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Prop: of the Madras Court.
Read the following:
10TH SEPTEMBER 1884, No. 2318, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. A. DAVIES, Esq., Acting Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, Appellate Side, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 22nd July 1884, No. 2051.

I am directed to invite the attention of Government to the correspondence recorded

G.O., dated 14th August 1875, No. 1786, Judicial department.

G.O., dated 28th August 1875, No. 1883, Judicial department.

G.O., dated 7th April 1876, No. 670, Judicial department.

G.O., dated 29th May 1876, No. 1049, Judicial department.

in the Government Orders marginally noted, relative to the construction of a suitable building for the High Court and its establishments. The necessity for locating the High Court in a building capable of affording the accommodation needed to meet existing requirements was shown in this court's letter recorded in the first of the Government Orders above quoted, and the Government therein evidently intended the erection of a new building, as the Acting Consulting Architect was directed to take the necessary steps for preparing the plans, &c., for transmission to Mr. Chisholm, then in England, for the elaboration of the building which it was then proposed to erect on the open space on the left bank of the Cooum, Pudupettah, Egmore; but this site was afterwards found to be required by the Military department (G.O., dated 28th August 1875, No. 1883). The Government later on inquired (G.O., dated 7th April 1869, No. 670) whether the building on the south beach, used as the Public Works Workshop, could not be employed so as to improve the accommodation of the High Court, and on the reply of the court that it could not (G.O., dated 29th May 1876, No. 1049) the matter appears to have dropped, doubtless on account of the financial strain caused by the famine and the Afghan war which intervened to prevent the further consideration of the question at that time. But for this a suitable building for the High Court would in all probability have been constructed before now.

2. When the High Court is accommodated in a more suitable building, the present premises might be utilized in the manner suggested by the Consulting Architect to Government in paragraph 3 of his letter read in the Government Order first above quoted, viz., for the Town Magistrates' Courts and the Central Police office, while further accommodation could also be given to the local Small Cause Court, which, as will be seen from the enclosed copy of Mr. Handley's letter, requires a great deal more accommodation and space than that now available.

3. In these circumstances I am directed to request that Government may be moved to give effect to their order of the 14th August 1875, No. 1786, by issuing the necessary instructions for the construction of a new building for the location of the High Court. Besides the general accommodation shown in the subjoined statement as required for the Judges, officers and establishment of the court, provision will have to be made for certain law officers of Government in the new building, viz., the Advocate-General, Government Pleader, Government Solicitor, Law Reporter, Crown Prosecutor, &c. (G.Os., dated 16th July 1875, No. 1570, and 2nd March 1876, No. 399, and G.O., dated 29th May 1876, No. 1047, already referred to above).

As to the site it may be doubted whether that originally selected would meet the convenience of the public. It should not be remote from the offices of the