(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 100.

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 3/90

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(46)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D துறை

அரசாணை எண். / மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 3468

அச்சகம் / பலவகை

நாள் : 5-12-1889 ~~198~~.

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

50 - Sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th March 1877. *No.* 792.

No. 180. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department, dated Fort St. George, 5th March 1877, No. 529 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd February 1877, No. 799.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 13th November 1876, Miscellaneous No. 9,801.

Read also the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 30th December 1876, No. 588.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th November last, No. 9,801, I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board that the old palace at Chendragherri is a very ancient building, which was erected at great expense by the ancient Hindu Rajah Rayagi. The Local Fund Board, who were for many years desirous of restoring the same to a certain extent in view to prevent its falling down entirely, allotted a sum of Rupees 2,000 in the current year for its repair. Their object in having proposed to bear the charge from Local Funds was that, though it is not a work of public utility in general, as remarked by the Board, it should stand as a monument of ancient skill in architecture. This building, moreover, affords accommodation to European and other travellers who go now and then for the inspection of the Tripati hills, and others that pass through that part of the country. It is a large edifice, with three stories, built after the Hindu style. It is constructed with granite and chunam throughout. Though the building is formed of several arch works, &c., it contains not a single piece of wood for the support of any portion of the superstructure. The repairs now required for the building is especially for the steps and other parts where it is likely to give way and seriously damage the building. In my letter, No. 502, of the 1st November, I requested the Board's sanction for the early execution of the repairs to the same on the understanding that the work will also form part of relief work at this time, as many coolies may be engaged for carrying the materials to the upstairs. The Board are aware that several other works have recently been selected and carried out in that taluk as relief works. I therefore request that the Board will be pleased to admit the allotment made in the Local Fund Budget of the current year, and sanction the execution of its repairs as already requested.

THE matter will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The building is doubtless one which ought not to be allowed to fall to ruin, but there are, the Board believe, special grants made for the preservation of such monuments. That the charge is one which ought not to be borne by Local Funds the Board entertain no doubt. The allotment which is found in the Local Fund Budget of the current year escaped notice when the Budget was reviewed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th February 1877. *No.* 792.

Referred to the Public Works Department, in view to the Consulting Engineer being requested to inspect the building and report on its condition and the approximate cost of repairs needed to maintain its stability.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 181. Order thereon, 7th March 1877, No. 792.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 20.

Communicated to the Consulting Architect to Government, who will inspect the building at an early date and supply the report and estimate called for.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. FAREWELL, Colonel,
Acting Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Buildings and Roads Branch.

To the Consulting Architect to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

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Govt. of {1877} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT
to GOVERNMENT.

Dated March 7th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 7th March 1877, No. 792.

MARCH.

Nos. 180-181.

Old Palace at Chendragherri in North Arcot District.—The Consulting Architect to Government directed to inspect the —, and report at an early date on its condition, furnishing approximate cost of its repairs.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

8th March 1879, No. 328.

Archæology.

Read the following paper :—

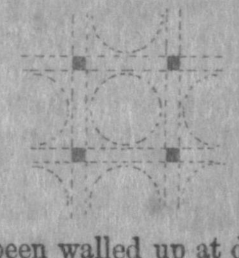
No. 32. *From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk,* 25*th February* 1879, *No.* 570.

[G.O., No. 792, dated 7th March 1877.]

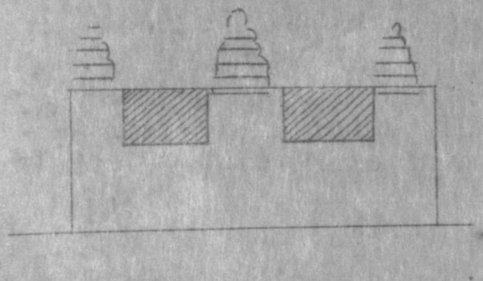
Enclosures.
Two paintings in oil.

I have the honor to lay before you the following report on the old palace of Chandragiri said to have been built by Raja Rayaji. I have not yet ascertained the date of this reign, but the building itself I should take to be seventeenth or early eighteenth century work; some parts are more modern still. The adjacent zenana appears to be early eighteenth century work little altered.

2. The main building is about 150 feet long; it faces south with an imposing and well-balanced façade of three stories. The skyline is pleasingly broken by Hindoo terminations like the tops of "gopurams," the largest surmounting the durbar hall. This apartment measures 21 feet square; it is surrounded by a colonnade and rises through two stories in such a way that the larger quantity of light comes through the upper tier of arches, which thus forms a kind of clearstory. This admirable and artistic mode of lighting, so common in old examples, is too seldom adopted in our modern buildings. The interior sketch is from a clearstory window looking across the hall. With the exception of the angles, which are comparatively solid, each floor consists of a pillared hall. The piers arched across both ways forming the supports for the flat domes which ceil the square space. Each floor is extended beyond the face of the last row of piers to the amount of six or seven feet, the part beyond the piers being supported by stone corbels of considerable strength. The spaces between the piers have been walled up at different times, some of them quite recently.



3. The building as it at present stands contains much to interest and puzzle the architect. There are in the first place two distinct styles of construction—the stone and mortar and the brick and mortar. The latter is not confined to the upper part of the building only. On the north face the central and end compartments in the second story are built of stone, but the spaces intervening between these parts have been subsequently built in flush with brick. Again, on the south side the transverse



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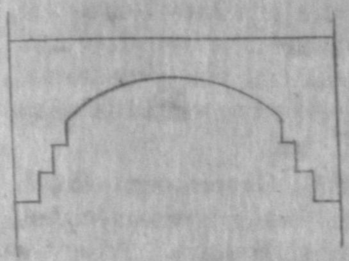

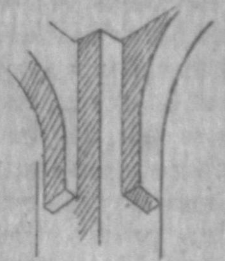

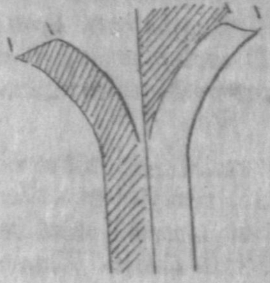

arches do not rise with Saracenic curves from the piers; they are segmental in form and rest on corbels. It is noticeable also that all the arches in the lower story have an inner stilted band springing from a corbel in the orthodox Mahometan fashion introduced generally into the south by Mysore builders, whereas all the brick arches and indeed some of the upper stone ones have no preparation for the arch and the salient angle changes to a hollow angle in a blank bald manner. Further the older vaults (those in the lower story) appear to have been worked in stone from stone corbels, the upper or more recent ones in brick, and lastly (with one exception mentioned further on) not a particle of ornament of any kind exists above the basement; indeed most of the brickwork shows no signs of having ever been plastered at all. A consideration of these facts leads the beholder to conclude that the palace not only took a long time to build, but that it was really never finished. Such a conjecture is apparently contradicted by the fact that the lower, and presumably meaner, apartments were finished to the intrados with good clean cut plaster mouldings, griffen brackets, and imitation carved wood ceilings, while on the second, or floor of state, there is only on one or two arches a coarse imitation of the ornamentation below, and higher still, where we would expect more finish, there exists a most inferior piece of cornice plasterwork. Beyond these two miserable attempts at ornament there is not a vestige to be discovered above the lower story, although the stone brackets for receiving ornament are innumerable. One is thus forced to another conclusion that the building was finished and ornamented, and that the ornaments have been removed for their value, and further that the old palace, after being denuded of its treasures, has at some subsequent period suffered a kind of restoration. This latter view is supported by the fact that, notwithstanding the careful finishing of the intrados of the majority of the vaults in the lower story, there is one in which the wooden frame and some of the bamboos for the support of the centre still remain and the impress of the mat used to cover the frame is left on the underside of the plaster. It is very unlikely that one apartment would be carefully finished and the next on the same floor not have its centres removed; hence it does not seem to me at all improbable that after desertion some respectable native should have endeavoured in his own way to make a residence of the building, and failed to carry out completely his original intentions. The period does not appear to be so remote but what inquiry on the spot might clear up this point.

4. It is difficult at the present time to form any conception of the finished exterior of the building. The bold projections beyond the face of the arches bracketed out on corbels probably carried a network of Hindoo cusped openings tier upon tier not unlike the rude imitation now seen in the elevation in the central compartment. The Saracenic arches now exposed to view are really interior work no doubt intended to be hidden, with the Hindoo's characteristic abhorrence of an arch as a form of beauty. I believe the central screen-work before mentioned was repaired, if not restored, lately.

5. The present condition of the building is highly satisfactory. It shows no signs of weakness constructively; the few pieces of wood used in the later work will rot and fall without damage to the structure, and the wear and tear for some years will be confined to the crumbling of the brick and mortar cornices and possibly the fall of a brick column or two in the outer works. Although the desire to retain an object of antiquity intact is most laudable, I would earnestly deprecate anything being done in the way of restoration or repairs to this or any other monument or building until the most careful and accurate plans and sections have been made and placed on record. After that every structure should either be restored and made to serve useful purposes or be fenced round and allowed to become a ruin.

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6. In the present case I would, with the permission of Government, depute Mr. Lewis to make careful plans, elevations, and sections of the building to scale in all respects similar to those of Terumal Naick's which he completed at Madura. After this the building could be repaired and turned into a suite of public offices at a very moderate cost. The present taluk cutcherry at Chandragiri is a miserable tiled shed surrounding a small courtyard. The eaves are so low, one has to stoop to get under the breastsummer, and the building altogether compares so unfavorably with the new lock-up on the other side of the wall that it must partake more of the nature of a reward than a penalty to leave the court for the prison. There is also at Chandragiri a police station and a lock-up. All these could be accommodated in the restored building, and rooms still remain available for other purposes.

7. That the restoration or rehabitation of this building would be extremely popular among native gentlemen may be gathered from the fact that a party of travellers from Vellore record in charcoal on the walls their "unanimous regret" that the "present Government" (1875) should interest themselves so little in ancient Hindoo architecture.

8. Since writing the above I have ascertained* that Raja Rayaji is identical with Krishna-raya or simply "The Raya," and that this king constructed not the palace, but the *fort* on the adjacent hill early in the sixteenth century.

9. Venkatapati Raya, the reigning prince of Chandragiri at the close of the sixteenth century, was conquered by Raja Udiyar of the Mysore race of kings. As I have before stated that the palace was constructed by Mysore builders, we may safely infer that it was erected *after* this event, and that the date I at first assigned, late seventeenth or early eighteenth century work, is about the mark. In the absence of inscriptions, however, it will be impossible to date with certainty anything between A.D. 1400 and 1800 without instituting a laborious investigation of numerous examples.

No. 773.

Transferred to the Financial Department with reference to endorsement, dated 5th March 1877, No. 529.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Acting Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

27th February 1879.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, 8th March 1879, No. 328.

His Grace the Governor in Council authorizes Mr. Chisholm to carry out his proposals to employ Mr. Lewis in sketching in detail the existing building at Chandragiri, and to submit, without great delay, estimates for its substantial restoration and adaptation.

2. Chandragiri is a place of peculiar interest. The last Raja of the race gave the sanad permitting the representatives of the East India Company to build Fort St. George, A.D. 1639. Their history may be briefly noted in this place:

(1.) There was anciently a great Telugu dynasty at Waronjol in the Nizam's Country eighty miles north-east of Hyderabad.

(2.) It was subverted by Mahometan invaders in 1323.

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* *Madras Journal of Literature and Science,* Volume 14, page 44.

Vijianagar

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(3.) A migration was then made to Bijnagar (Kampi), where the new dynasty afterwards became known to Europeans as that of *Narsingh* after one of its greatest kings who died, after a long reign, in 1495. Most historians say it was *he* who built the forts at Chandragiri and Vellore. Mr. Chisholm's informants state it was Narsingha's successor, the celebrated Krishna Raya, who came to the throne in 1509 and died in 1529. Krishna Raya greatly extended and consolidated the kingdom, but in less than forty years after his death, viz., A.D. 1564, Bijnagar fell before the arms of the four great Mahometan Padshahs who held sway between the Tapti and the Krishna rivers.

(4.) The dynasty then for a short time held court at Penugonda, but moved off finally to Chandragiri, south of the ghauts. It was finally, Mr. Chisholm says, conquered by the Wadeyars of Mysore (of whom the present Maharaja is the representative) at the close of the sixteenth century.

(5.) The date of the subversion of Chandragiri is of course—from what has been stated above—incorrect, and the fact of its collision with Mysore inaccurately represented. The dynasty was subverted by the Mahometan King of Golconda, 1645, or about six years after the issue of the Madras sanad, Golconda itself being subverted by the Mogul Emperor (Aurangzeb) in 1687. Meanwhile what really took place as between Chandragiri and the Wadeyars is this.

(6.) In 1610 the Wadeyars, who were fast rising into importance, obtained from Venkatapati Raja, the incumbent of the Chandragiri musnud, the surrender of Seringapatam, where his power still lingered. It was done peaceably, and was by way of compromise with the threats or pretensions of the Wadeyars. It contented them; they made Seringapatam their capital and never molested Chandragiri.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
„ Consulting Architect to Government.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Board of Revenue.
„ Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

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Govt. of 1879 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated March, 8th.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 8th March 1879, No. 328.

MARCH.

Nos. 32-33.

Archæology.—The Consulting Architect authorised to carry out his proposals to employ Mr. Lewis in sketching in detail the existing building at Chandragiri and to submit estimates for its substantial restoration and adoption.

No. 960 W d/ 31st March 1879

Recorded

(Intd) J.S.S.

No. 338 3468

Consulting Architects Office
Chepauk 26th July 1882

From

The Consulting Architect
to Government.

To

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

Sir,

+ This is merely an O. J. Statement
Ce. 7/8/82

I have the honor to report with reference to G.O. P.W.D. No. 1817 W of the 17th instant + that the Revised Estimate for the Post and Telegraph Office is nearly ready. It is quite impossible to say when it will be completed as our hands are at present full of other important works and so far as I can see are likely to remain so.

2. The principal plans and Estimates at present under preparation are as follows:-

(1) Remodelling the Public Works Offices.

(2) Remodelling the large Hall in the Museum.

(3) Restoration of Chandragiri palace.

3. If any or all of these can be laid aside

6

I can finish the Revised Estimate of the Telegraph Office at once

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

R. Chisholm

Consg Architect to Governmt.

To W

Mr. Chisholm might be allowed to engage some temporary draftsmen if he can see his way to securing good men?

R. B.

d

3418

7

B. Ex. 1817 W. 17-7-82

R.W.E.

[illegible] 1/36

Roads and Buildings

From
The Consg Architect
to Government

To
The Chief Engineer, P.W.D.
Roads & Buildings Branch

No 338
Dated 26th July 1882
Received [illegible]

No 572 Ed/ 2d Augt 1882

No of enclosures

Revised Estimate for the Post and Telegraph Office. Madras.

To W.
For orders with reference to the [illegible]
[illegible] Cy
27/7/82

C A W

If employment of [illegible] [illegible] feasible in any extent [illegible] the [illegible] Statement of probable Cost — but otherwise [illegible] the [illegible] the works carried on the [illegible] the revised design for the Tel Office [illegible] — under the circumstances [illegible] the Chendrington Palace property and (1) and (2) may be taken up afterwards [illegible] in which they stand

[illegible]

27/7

[illegible] 7

3468

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8

[illegible] ary. [illegible]
to Govt with letter [illegible]
[illegible] 325 [illegible] be [illegible]

B. Dec. 1817 W. 17-7-82

No. 512 E d/ 2d August 1882.

From the Cons. Architect No. 338 d/ 26.7.82. C. No. 4996

If Mr. Chisholm can obtain the services of one or two competent draftsmen they may be entertained as a temporary ~~[illegible]~~ measure, after sanction shall have been duly obtained – otherwise the three works named can be put aside till the revised design for the Telegraph office has been got out.

2. Under no circumstances is the Chandragheri Palace pressing, and (1) and (2) may be taken up afterwards in the order in which they stand.

(Sd.) R. H. Sankey, Col. R.E.
Chief Engr. P.W. Dept.

(I.) R.P.

To,
The Cons. Architect &

Despd. 2/8

3468

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

P. W. C. No. call for 22/9

From

The Collector of North Arcot

No. 82

Dated 20/9.

Recd.

SUBJECT.

Old Palace at Chandragiri

Reporting on the uses to which the — can be put to if restored.

Disposal.

E. No. 801 dated 26th Sept. 1882.

Referred to the Consulting Architect for any remarks he may wish to offer, with refce. to his letter No. 325 d/ 21 July 1882.

(Sd.) J. Shaw Stewart, Col. R.E.
for Chief Engr. P.W.D.

To,
The C.A. to Govt. with letter
No. 325 dd. 21/7/82 in order to be returned

Despd. 26/9

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B. Ne 1817 W. 17-7-82

No. 494 E d/ 28/7/82
" 572 E d/ 2/8/82
" 1817 W d/ 17/7/82 (B)
" 960 W d/ 31/3/99 "
" 792 d/ 7/3/77 (Sub)
" 1369 C d/ 13/7/82
" 4600 W d/ 5/12/98

ooly 27/7 Rs 80.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following paper :—

Proceedings in the Public Department, dated 3rd September 1883, No. 1729.

Order—dated 11th October 1883, No. 2858 W., Public Works.

The following points in His Excellency the Governor's minute and its appendix appear to require notice in the Public Works Department :—

Shevaroy Hills.

(1.) Ghât road fit for wheeled traffic to connect Yercaud with Salem.

Kurnool.

(2.) Railway to connect the Kurnool with the Kistna district.
(3.) Kurnool canal.

Nandyál.

(4.) Railway to the district from the Kistna.
(5.) Completion of the line of telegraph along the Kurnool canal.

Chandragiri.

(6.) Old Palace.

Venkatagiri.

(7.) Railway through the district to the westward.

Gúdúr.

(8.) Railway through the district.

Nellore.

(9.) Railway communication with Madras *viâ* Tirupati.
(10.) Protection of the town from floods in the Pennér.
(11.) Supply channels to the Nellore tank.
(12.) Collector's cutcherry and jail.

Cuddalore.

(13.) Minor Irrigation Works in South Arcot.

G.O., dated 10th Sept. 1880, No. 2129 W.
" " 31st Jan. 1881, " 250 W.

(1.) The President of the Local Fund Board will be requested, in the Financial Department, to state whether the Board are prepared to aid in this work and to what extent. On receipt of a reply the Government will consider the propriety of making a grant from Provincial funds.

Items (2) and (4) refer to the project known as the Bezváda-Hindupur State Railway, the survey of which is now in active prosecution, and the construction of which has received the Secretary of State's sanction.

Items (7), (8), and (9) have reference to the project for a line of railway from Nellore westward, through Tirupati, to Madanapalle. The reconnoissance for this line has been completed so far as Tirupati, and the remainder of the work will be taken up so soon as sufficient staff is available. The remarks respecting these two railway projects in the appendix to His Excellency the Governor's minute will be communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

(3.) The remarks on this subject will be communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

(5.) It has been decided to open to the public the line of telegraph along the Kurnool canal, and an estimate is under preparation for putting the line into a condition which will enable the Telegraph Department to undertake its future maintenance and supervision.

(6.) His Excellency the Governor's remarks on this subject will be communicated to Major Cole, R.E., to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, and to the Consulting Architect to Government.

(10.) and (11.) These points will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for consideration and report.

(12.) Plans and estimates for a new Collector's cutcherry and district jail at Nellore are now under preparation.

(13.) The remarks on this subject will be communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The question of Minor Irrigation Works generally is receiving attention, and no special action on this particular point is required.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Superintending Engineer, Second Circle.
" " " Third "
" " " Fourth " with copy of remark item 6.
" " " Fifth "
" Consulting Architect to Government, with copy of remark item 6.
To Major Cole, R.E., with copy of remark item 6.
} With the appendix to the minute.

To the Public, &c., Departments.
" Revenue Department.
" Financial "

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

11

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated October, 11th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th Oct. 1883, No. 2858 W.

OCTOBER.

Minute by His Excellency the Governor

Remarks on certain points noted in the — on his tour through the Shevaroy Hills, Kurnool, Nandyál, Nellore, Cuddalore, &c.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Order—dated 22nd August 1884, No. 2073 W., Public Works.

Tirumal Naick's Palace Restoration.—The work of restoring Tirumal Naick's palace at Madura and adapting it for public offices has been in progress since 1869, when, under orders of Government, Mr. Chisholm was intrusted with the duty of carrying out the measures necessary to give effect to proposals which had been made by Lord Napier.

In the year 1882 the building was thought sufficiently complete for occupation. The space allowed and arrangements proposed by the Consulting Architect proved, however, to be inadequate. Mr. Chisholm was accordingly directed * to prepare revised plans and proposals. These were never received, and in G.O., No. 1917 W., dated 9th July 1883, the Government directed a Committee to be formed to report on requirements generally.

* G.O., No. 3374 W., dated 20th Dec. 1882.

The report of that Committee is recorded with G.O., No. 170 W., dated 19th January 1884. The recommendations made have been approved by Government for execution as funds become available; plans and estimates being meanwhile prepared in order of urgency.

2. *Chandragiri Palace Restoration.*—In March 1877 Mr. Chisholm was directed † to inspect the old palace of Chandragiri, and to report on its condition and the cost of repairs needed to maintain its stability. His report was submitted in February 1879, and he was thereupon authorised, in G.O., No. 328, dated 8th March 1879, to depute his head draftsman to sketch the building in detail, and submit estimates for its substantial restoration, in view to its being utilised for public offices. These estimates are now awaited.

† G.O., No. 792, dated 7th March 1877.

3. *Gingee Fort Illustrations.*—The old fort and temples at Gingee were ordered to be inspected by Mr. Chisholm in March 1874. In 1880 he submitted a report accompanied by some sketches of the remains, which he had made on the spot. He deprecated the expenditure of money on the restoration of the ruins, but recommended that the whole place should be surveyed and sketched. He further suggested that eight perfect stone-pillars in one of the temples should be removed to Madras, and that the monoliths, of which he counted more than 180, should be utilised in the new post and telegraph offices, then under construction. Government sanctioned ‡ a survey of the place, but declined to permit the removal of any of the architectural remains. The illustrations have still to be prepared.

‡ G.O., No. 346, dated 4th March 1880 (Public).

4. Mr. Chisholm, who is expected in India in October, will, on arrival, be deputed for special duty in connection with the three works noticed above, which he has not hitherto been in a position to complete.

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5. Major Morant, R.E., will continue to perform the ordinary duties of Consulting Architect to Government during Mr. Chisholm's employment on special duty.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To R. F. Chisholm, Esq. (on return from leave).
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Public Department.
" S. E. VI Circle

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated August, 22nd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 22nd Aug. 1884, No. 2073 W.

AUGUST.

Mr. R. F. Chisholm, Consulting Architect

Deputation of —, for special duty in connection with the Tirumal Naick's palace at Madura, restoration of the Chandragiri palace, and making illustrations of the Gingee fort.

3468

Public Works Department, 1884-85.

Current No. 237
Letter No. 17
Dated the 9th January /85
From the Cons^g Architect to Gov^t

NOTE OF REMARKS.

1. The accompanying estimate, amounting to Rs. 2,491, provides for repairing generally the old palace of Chandragiri, and completing two apartments. Twelve 'illustrations' accompany the estimate.

2. In his report C. A., aided by the illustrations, fully and clearly describes the present state of the old palace of Chandragiri. He explains at length, the nature of, and reason for, the general repairs now proposed; and he adds in the specification relative to the conversion of the central hall of the palace into a rest house

hat: "Nothing will be
one to interfere with
the present appearance
f the structure" — Of
course, the outward, or
external appearance
is referred to.

3. C. A. has provided in the
present estimate for
all that he considers
necessary in the circum-
stances of the case, but
he states that, if desired,
— "I could easily complete
a drawing of the Palace
finished according to my
idea of the intentions of
the original builders, but
I doubt if such a work
would serve any really
useful purpose."

20th Jan./85
BH

Dw. For orders -

Please see His Exy. the Govr's
remarks in connection with G.O. in
2853/354 of 11.10.83 - Cy 20.1.85

3468

3338

P. W. D.

Roads and Buildings.

From

The Consulting Architect
to the Government of Madras,

To

The Chief Engineer
P. W. D

10 JAN 85

No. 17

Dated 9th January 1885

Received

Ex. 178 C. of 29-1-85

No. of Enclosures. 12

Subject.

Submits for approval and sanction plans and Estimates for repairing the old Palace of Chandraghiri and completing two apartments.

No. 792 d/7. 3. 77
" 960 Wd/31. 3. 79
" 512 Ed/2. 8. 82
" 801 Ed/26. 9. 82
" 4729 d/3. 9. 83 (Public)
" 2858 Wd/11. 10 83
" 2073 Wd/22. 8. 84

Circ. 3/2/85
Circ. 23/1/86

S. A. W.

2468

Please have Note for orders drafted pointing out that this report on the repairs necessary for the preservation of the old palace at Chandragiri was one of the duties specially assigned to Mr. Chisholm in G.O. of 22-8-84. W. 2073 W. and for the performance of which he was temporarily relieved from the ordinary duties of C. A.

The proposals now made by Mr. Chisholm should be briefly epitomised, — pointing out especially that he proposes nothing in the way of modern renovation, — but only such measures as seem necessary for the protection of the old work.

21-1-86

3468

To W.

The estimate of Rs. 2491 for the Chandragiri Palace simply provides for what is essential to keep it from further decay — for providing one decently habitable room, & for removing "modern excrescences". No restoration is attempted.

It is for His Excellency in Council to decide whether, in addition to the simple work now provided, it would not be advisable to protect the whole building by closing the external openings with glass and venetians.

C.A.
21.1.85

16

3468

Restoration works at Chandragiri Palace

To W

Resubmitted for orders.

The H. M. is under the impression that the cost of protecting the whole building with glass & venetians is provided for in the estimate of Rs 2491, but it seems clear from Mr Chisholm's report & specification that such is not the case.

The six doors "Venetianed & glazed" provided in the estimate at a cost of Rs 108 appear to be for the room which is to

17

be made decently habitable.

H.E. the Governor notes ~~that~~ the estimate must not be exceeded even by one Rupee.

If Mr Chisholm's proposal be approved, a supplemental estimate must apparently be called for.

Orders are solicited also whether the execution of the work is to be entrusted to the Ex. Engr. North Arcot Divn., or to the Cons. Archt.

CM
28.1.85

Mr Chisholm should be requested by memorandum, to ~~state that~~ submit supplemental estimate of cost of the measures suggested by him. and on its receipt the papers should again be

Circulated for orders

JJS
28.1.85

Old palace Chandragiri

further sketch with No 1750 27/1

Subm. 8/2

No 2

3468

No. 178 Cay 29th January 1885

Memo.

Adverting to his letter No 17 of 9th Jany 1885, Mr Chisholm is requested to submit, as early as practicable, a supplemental estimate providing for protecting the Chandragiri Palace by closing the external openings with glass & venetians, as proposed in his report on the project.

CG
29.1.85

To R. F. Chisholm Esqre
C.A. on Special duty.

Sd 29/1/85

18

Cn

~~write telegram~~

A No. 2073 W d/ 22-8-84
— " 285 8 W d/ 11-10-83-
G.O. No. 1729 d/ 8-9-83-
E. No. 801 d/ 26-9-82
No. 512 E d/ 2-8-82
B No. 960 W d/ 31-3-79-
A No. 792 d/ 7-3-77

No. 178 C d/ 29-1-85

7-3H
13 May

[illegible]
S 30-1-85-

3668

ESTIMATE FORM.—Detail Measurements.

Detail of Work.	Number.	Measurements in Feet.			Area or Contents.	Total Quantity of each description of Work.
		Length.	Breadth.	Depth.		
Doors & windows						
Lower Storey	1	8-1		8-6	69	
	1	8-3		8-6	70	
	2	3-9		8-6	64	
2nd Storey	1	7-9		4-0	31	
	1	8-3		4-0	33	
	1	7-0		8-6	60	
	1	6-9		8-6	57	
	1	8-0		8-6	70	
	1	8-6		8-6	72	
	2	7-0		8-6	119	
	1	6-9		8-6	57	
	2	6-9		8-6	115	
	2	7-6		8-6	128	
	2	8-6		8-6	145	
	1	8-6		8-6	72	
	1	7-6		8-6	64	
	1	8-0		8-6	68	
3rd Storey	2	6-9		8-0	108	
	1	7-1½		8-0	57	
	1	6-0		8-0	48	
	2	7-6		7-6	113	
	1	6-10		7-0	47	
	2	6-7		7-0	92	
	3	3-0		7-0	63	
	1	7-10½		7-0	55	
Carried over sft					1847	

[P. W. D. Code. Paras. 1074 and 1075.]

P. W. D. Form
No. M 204.

ESTIMATE FORM.—Detail Measurements.

Detail of Work.	Number.	Measurements in Feet			Area or Contents.	Total Quantity of each description of Work.
		Length.	Breadth.	Depth.		
Brought forward	Square feet				1877	
3 Storey	1	6–5		8–0	51	
	1	7–0		8–0	56	
	1	7–6		7–0	53	
	1	8–1		7–0	57	
Total Doors Windows				Square ft		2094

3468

ESTIMATE FORM.—Abstract.

Quantity.	Description of Work.	Rate.	Per	Amount.	Total.
		RS.		RS.	RS.
	Chandragiri Palace				
2094 sft	Closing the outer opening with venetians windows	2/-	sft	4188	
	Sundries @ 5%			209	

Grand Total of Estimate Rs. 4397

Station Madras
Dated 31st January 1885

R Chisholm
Executive Engineer.

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Reference to Madras P. W. D. Code.

Paras. 1074, 1075, 1086, 1087, 1091 to 1094, 1108, 1111 to 1114, 1130 and 1145 to 1147.

P. W. D Form.
No. M 207.

Circle—

Division— Consg Architect

ESTIMATE FORM.—Abstract.

(To accompany the Detailed Estimate No. 50 of 1884-85 for *.)

Supplementary repairs Chandragiri Palace

* Here enter the name and description of work in full.

Estimate No. 50 of 1884-85.

Financial Head— provincial

Budget Head— civil Buildings

Departmental Head— Repairs

Main Head— Miscellaneous

Sub-Head— archaeology

Project of which the work forms part— Chandragiri Palace restoration

Section—

Name of Work— Supplementary repairs Chandragiri Palace

Amount of Estimate— Rs 4397

To be carried out by— Consulting Architect partly and partly by Ex Engineer North Arcot

REFERENCES.

An Estimate for generally repairing the Palace was submitted by the Consulting Architect on the 9th of Inst. This Estimate provides for some additional work.

Reference to Madras P. W. D. Code.
Paras. 1074 to 1076.

P. W. D. Form.
No. M 203.

4th Circle.

Division— North Arcot
Taluk— Chandragiri

ESTIMATE FORM—Wrapper or Outer-sheet.

Estimate for* supplementary repairs Chandragiri Palace

Amount of Estimate, Rs. 4397

Detailed Estimate, No. 50 of 1884-85.

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* Here enter name and description of work in full.

3468

Office of Consg: Archt to Govt.
On Special duty
Chepauk 31st January 1885

No. 29

From
R. F. Chisholm Esqre.
Consg: Archt to Govt.
On Special duty

To
The Chief Engineer
Roads & Buildings

Sir

In compliance with your Office Memo No 178 c dated the 29th inst. I have the honor to submit the supplementary estimate called for in connection with the old Palace of Chandragiri.

2 I have merely provided for placing venetians in all

the external openings, After giving the matter very careful consideration I am of opinion that the venetians alone will afford Sufficient protection

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obt. Servant

R Chisholm -

Consg: Archt to Govt

On special duty

178 C 7 29/1/85
2073 W 7 22/8/84
2852 W 7 11/10/83
541 C 7 26/9/82
512 E 7 2/8/82
960 W 7 3/3/..
792 7 7/3/77

From

R. F. Chisholm Esqr
Cons. Archt to Govt
On Special duty

No 29

2 FEB 85

To

The Chief Engineer
Roads & Buildings

Enclosures 1

Submits a Supplementary Estimate amounting to Rs 4397. in connection with the old Palace of Chandragiri for closing the outer openings with venetian windows

Circ: 3/2/85

3468

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

READ the following :—

From the Consulting Architect to Govt. No. 17 d/ 9th Jany/85.

FOR ORDERS.

This report on the repairs necessary for the preservation of the old palace at Chandragiri, was one of the duties specially assigned to Mr Chisholm in G. O. dated 22nd August 1884, No. 2073 W, and for the performance of which he was temporarily relieved from the ordinary duties of Consulting Architect.

2. Mr Chisholm's proposals embrace briefly the

24

the removal of mud walls which have been inserted in the openings; the plastering of floors, and the provision of doors where necessary, the removal of vegetation and debris, and the provision of one decently habitable room as a rest house for travellers.

In para 57 of His Excellency the Governor's tour minute of 4th August 1883, His Excellency remarked with respect to this old palace.

"It should be carefully kept in the state of ruinous, but not unsightly repair in which it now is"

Mr Chisholm, it will be seen, proposes nothing in the way of modern renovation, - but only such measures as seem necessary for the

FOR ORDERS.

3468

the protection of the old work.

He adds, however, that it is a question for His Excellency in Council to decide whether it would not be advisable to protect the whole building by closing the external openings with glass and venetians, the work so added to be colored so as not to detract from the age of the shell of the building.

22.1.85 Colonel R.E.
Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

As the mud walls which now close the openings are to be removed the provision of doors & windows seems to be absolutely necessary & the cost is trifling — The total amount of the estimate inclusive of the above is only Rs. 2491 I would accept the proposal.

24/1/85

No harm in this but it must be understood that the Estimate must not be exceeded even by one rupee

M.G.D.
26th Jan '85

C.S.
22.1.85

35

3468

For orders

~~The Hon'ble M. E. Salter~~

~~His Excy the Governor~~

28 JAN 85

Circ: 3/2/85

Circ: 23/1/85 ... 28/1/85

This is a very different matter and will bring the total cost up to nearly R. 7000. I don't think such expenditure w'd be justifiable – But why Venetians? wooden most shutters of inexpensive wood would do as well or better & if painted would last well

M. E. G.

5/2

Yes this is quite out of the question. The building shd be kept in the state of ruinous repair in which

---

P. W. D.

3468

Note.

Estimate for repairs necessary for the preservation of the old palace at Chandragiri.

Recirculated for orders, with advertence to the notes by the Honorable the Member & His Excy. the Governor on the "For Orders" note of 22.1.85.

The estimate of Rs 2491, previously circulated, does not, as supposed by the H. M., provide for protecting the whole building by closing the external openings with glass and

26

and venetians. The six doors "venetianed & glazed" provided in the estimate at a cost of Rs 408. are intended for the room which it is proposed to render suitable as a rest house for travellers.

Mr. Chisholm has now submitted a supplemental estimate for the protection of the building. He has not estimated for any glass, but merely for placing venetians in all the external openings. The additional cost of this work will, it will be seen, amount to Rs 4,397.

For orders.

LLS -2-85

[illegible] Arc: 3/2/85

For orders

~~The Hon. H. S. Sullivan~~

~~His E. [illegible]~~

Rd. Secretary to Government P.W. Department Madras
7 FEB 85

it now is. That is to say it shd not be allowed to fall down. I found it a perfectly sufficient habitation in fair weather. Surely Mr Chisholm is competent to do what is wanted to prevent its falling about his own or other people's ears

MW

B
[illegible]

Form No. 22.

3468

No. 310 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15th February 85

READ the following:—

Letter from the Consg Architect to Govt on Special duty (H.E. No 17 d/ Jany 9th 1885)

Do do (" " 29 d/ " 31st ")

With these letters, Mr Chisholm submits two estimates amounting to Rs 6,885/- for the preservation of the old palace at Chandragiri, and for protecting the building by closing the external openings with venetians.

2. H.E. the Governor in Council does not consider this large expenditure to be justifiable ~~with reference to the object in view~~. The desire of the Government is that the building should be ~~kept~~ preserved in the state of

previous repair in which it now is, and ~~proposed repairs~~ Mr. Chisholm's proposals should therefore be confined to measures necessary to prevent ~~the building~~ it from falling.

3. The estimates will accordingly be returned to Mr. Chisholm for revision in the light of this order.

CS.
9.2.85

WS
9-2-85

B. No. 310 W. of 9th Feby. 85

7 — BH
13 W

To,

The Cons. g Architect to Govt on Special duty
with 15 enclos.

Public dept.

Despd. 10-2-85

20/2

23/2

3468

23rd March 1885, No. 731 W., Public Works.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—again the following papers :—

From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government (on special duty), to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 9th January 1885, No. 17.

I have the honor to report that on my return from leave, on the 4th of November, I at once proceeded to Madura and started all the works necessary to enable me to complete a comprehensive scheme for the restoration of the old palace of Tirumal Naick and the location of the public offices therein. Circumstances, which I will explain hereafter, compelled me to defer the submission of this report, and, with the view of utilising the time, I proceeded to Chandragiri for the purpose of completing the plans and estimates connected with the preservation of that building. These papers I now lay before you.

Enclosure.

Chandragiri.

Report on the old palace of Chandragiri with suggestions for improving and conserving its general condition, by R. F. Chisholm, F.R.I.B.A.

List of Illustrations.

1. General survey of site.
2. Plans, elevations and sections of building.
3. 4, 5, 6. Reduced copies of plans, elevations and sections of building.
7. View of the site from the north-east.
8. Near view of the palace.
9. View of zenana, central feature.
10. Plan of old palace.
11. Sketch of doorway.
12. Measured drawing of window in zenana.

The old palace of Chandragiri stands in a large enclosure on the east side of a fortified rocky hill. In front of it lies a lovely valley shut in on the east, north and west by characteristic hills, and closed in the distance on the south-west side by the red cliffs of the sacred hills of Tirupati. Away down on the horizon further south, the perpendicular precipice of Nagari is just visible. Looking from one of the openings of the palace it is difficult to realise the fact that this solitude, now only broken by such rustic sounds as the melancholy cry of a picottah man, or the creaking wheels of some heavily laden bullock cart, was once the centre of a busy fortified town, and yet, judging from the strength of the fortress and the remains of its many temples, a place of considerable importance.

2. The plan shows only the inner fort; beyond this there was another and much stronger wall embracing a very large area, but little of this outer wall remains.

3. The old palace itself was never finished. In a former report I conjectured that it might possibly have been finished and the adornments of its walls removed for their intrinsic value; a closer examination proves to me very conclusively that such a supposition cannot be entertained. The larger portion of the original work was never plastered at all, and the building could never have been inhabited as a palace.

4. The screen of work covering the central feature is a recent addition, and I do not think it was the intention of the original builders to finish the façade in this way. The older palace,

called the zenana, is in a somewhat similar style. On the occasion of my first visit I devoted all my time to an examination of the larger building, as I had formed the hasty conclusion that the smaller structure (the zenana) was of more recent date. Looked at from the ground (see sketch No. 9) all the plaster work near the eye is rather commonplace and comparatively modern, and this kind of finish extends over the interior. It is only when you get through the first floor opening on the ledge shown in my sketch that you discover the remains of what must have been a most beautiful finished window wrought in the clean cut plaster work of the sixteenth or early seventeenth century (see drawing No. 2). I have reproduced this window from careful measurements, as it is the most pleasing specimen of its kind I have seen anywhere. The little niches for vases are half filled with plaster around the vase which was allowed to remain until the plaster set; this would prevent the vases from being blown away by high winds. The openings were doubtless filled with some form of trellis. On one or two places there are traces of color and holes for beads or some other light form of ornament. This beautiful specimen of work, in my opinion, gives a key-note to the larger building, and would not only enable us, should it be deemed desirable, to complete it with considerable confidence, but it shows pretty clearly that the masonry cage, already alluded to, covering the central feature and the lower story on either side of it is a recent unskilful method of rendering the palace habitable.

5. I regret to say that the interior of the palace and the zenana have only recently been defaced by the ugliest of all sanitary expedients, whitewash!

6. I presume this was done just before His Excellency's visit. A somewhat similar act was performed at Madura before the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. the interior of the palace was washed a bilious yellow which successfully vulgarised the edifice and completely effaced all our guides to restoration.

7. As it stands, the Chandragiri palace is a most picturesque and interesting specimen of antiquity, and it would be a matter for regret to modernise it by restorative measures. At the same time the fact must be borne in mind that it is a most difficult thing to preserve in a state of ruinious repair a building whose claims to veneration arise more from hard usage than actual age, for the agents producing this result too surely continue their work. During the past forty or fifty years the building has been protected by mud walls constructed in the outer openings. I do not imagine that these eyesores will be allowed to remain, and I have specified for their removal; but when this is done, the whole building will be, as heretofore, an open colonnade at the mercy of wind and rain.

8. In the estimate submitted with this report I have only provided for the expense of converting one room into a useful residence and for removing obvious excrescences. It is a question for His Excellency in Council to decide whether it would not be advisable in addition to these works to protect the whole building by closing the external openings with glass and venetians.

9. Provided the work so added is painted its natural color and not vulgarised by white, green, or any other fancy tone, these additions will not detract from the age of the shell of the building, while they will afford that protection so necessary for its preservation.

10. The provision of a cook-room I found a matter of difficulty. At present the cooking is performed in compartment 05 on the face of the building, and the smoke escapes any way and every way. It would be better, could we ensure its use, to construct a separate cook-room apart from the main structure; but the steep and dangerous stairs would be so much a cause of inconvenience to all concerned that I feel certain no precautions would prevent a lapse into the present state of affairs. I have therefore accepted the position of the cook-room on the first floor as a necessary evil, and I have endeavoured to make the best of it.

11. The old mud palaces B (see the general plan) is deserving of passing notice. I append a drawing of it (No. 10) and sketch elevation of the only door now remaining. It will be seen that it was an admirably planned structure, chastely finished within, and, although only constructed of mud, was probably a cooler and more comfortable dwelling than many of greater pretensions. It is not generally known that buildings of this description, when skilfully constructed and skilfully maintained, are, in this country, as permanent as the more costly structures.

12. I may mention, in conclusion, that, if it is considered desirable, I could easily complete a drawing of the palace finished according to my idea of the intentions of the original builders; but I doubt if such a work would serve any really useful purpose.

From the Consulting Architect, on special duty, dated 31st January 1885, No. 29.
G.O., dated 10th February 1885, No. 310 W, Public Works.

READ—also the following paper:—

From the Consulting Architect, on special duty, dated 23rd February 1885, No. 40.

3468

ORDER—dated 23rd March 1885, No. 731 W., Public Works.

These papers relate to estimates for repairs necessary for the preservation of the old palace of Chandragiri, the preparation of which was one of the special duties assigned to Mr. Chisholm, in G.O., dated 22nd August 1884, No. 2073 W.

2. Mr. Chisholm has submitted two proposals: the first embracing, briefly, the removal of mud-walls which have been inserted in the openings of the building; the plastering of floors; the provision of doors where necessary; the removal of vegetation and débris; and the provision of one decently habitable room as a rest-house for travellers. Estimated cost Rs. 2,491.

3. The second proposal, estimated to cost Rs. 4,397, provides for the protection of the building by placing venetians in the external openings.

4. In their proceedings No. 310 W., dated 10th February 1885, the Government did not consider the large expenditure involved in the two estimates to be justifiable; and His Excellency the Governor in Council is now of opinion that the necessities of the case will be met by the extension of the work provided for in the first estimate of Rs. 2,491, which is accordingly sanctioned.

5. The work will be carried out by the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, who will apply to Mr. Chisholm for advice, if necessary.

6. The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, will ask for the requisite funds in 1885-86.

7. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 285 W. of 1885-86, and classified as Civil Buildings, Repairs.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle,
with estimate, specification and two plans.
To R. F. Chisholm, Esq.
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
,, Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
,, Public Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

29

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 23rd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd March 1885, No. 731 W.

MARCH.

Old Palace at Chandragiri

Orders on estimates for preservation of —.

3468

[illegible]

Office of the Cons. Archt. to Govt.
Chepauk 9 January [illegible]

No. 17

From

R. F. Chisholm Esqre.
Cons. Archt. to Government
On special duty

To

The Chief Engineer P. W. D.
Roads and Buildings

Sir

Enclosures.
11 Plans
1 Estimate

I have the honor to report that on my return from leave on the 4th of November, I at once proceeded to Madura and started all the works necessary to enable me to complete a comprehensive scheme for the restoration of the old Palace of Tirumal Naik's and the location of the public offices therein; circumstances which I will explain hereafter compelled me to defer the submission of this report and with the view of utilizing the time I proceeded to Chandragiri for the purpose of completing the plans and estimate connected with the preservation of that building. These papers I now lay before you.

Chandragiri

Report on the Old Palace of Chandragiri with Suggestions for improving and conserving its General Condition by R. F. Chisholm Fellow R.I.B.A.

List of Illustrations

1. General Survey of Site.
2. Plans elevations and sections of building.
3. 4. 5. 6. Reduced copies of do.
7. view of the site from the north east.
8. near view of the Palace.
9. view of Zenana central feature.
10. plan of old Palace.
11. Sketch of doorway.
12. measured drawing of window in Zenana.

The old Palace of Chandragiri stands in a large enclosure on the east side of a fortified rocky hill. In front of it lies a lovely valley shut in on the East North and west by characteristic hills and closed in the distance on the south west side by the Red cliffs of the sacred hills of Tirupati; away down on the horizon further south, the perpendicular precipice of Nagari is just visible. Looking from one of the openings of the Palace it is difficult to realize the fact that this solitude, now only broken by such rustic sounds as the melancholy cry of a picottah man, or the creaking wheels of some heavily laden bullock cart, was once the centre of a busy fortified town, and

yet

yet judging from the strength of the fortress and the remains of its many temples, a place of considerable importance.

The plan shows only the inner fort, beyond this there was another and much stronger wall embracing a very large area, but little of this outer wall remains.

The old Palace itself was never finished. In a former report I conjectured that it might possibly have been finished and the adornments of its walls removed for their intrinsic value, a closer examination proves to me very conclusively that such a supposition cannot be entertained, the larger portion of the original work was never plastered at all, and the building could never have been inhabited as a Palace.

The screen of work covering the central feature is a recent addition, and I do not think it was the intention of the original builders to finish the facade in this way. The older Palace called the Zenana is in a somewhat similar style. On the occasion of my first visit I devoted all my time to an examination of the larger building as I had formed the hasty conclusion that the smaller structure (The Zenana) was of more recent date. Looked at from the ground (see sketch No 9) all the plaster work near the eye is rather commonplace and comparatively modern, and

this

this kind of finish extends over the interior, it is only when you get through the first floor opening on the ledge shown in my sketch that you discover the remains of what must have been a most beautiful finished window wrought in the clean cut plaster work of the sixteenth or early 17th Century see drawing No 2. I have reproduced this window from careful measurements. as it is the most pleasing specimen of its kind I have seen anywhere. The little niches for vases are half filled with plaster around the vase which was allowed to remain until the plaster set, this would prevent the vases from being blown away by high winds. The openings were doubtless filled with some form of trellis. On one or two places there are traces of color and holes for beads or some other light form of ornament. This beautiful specimen of work in my opinion gives a key note to the larger building, and would not only enable us should it be deemed desirable to complete it with considerable confidence, but it shows pretty clearly that the masonry cage already alluded to covering the central feature and the lower story on either side of it is a recent unskillful method of rendering the Palace habitable.

I regret to say that the interior of the Palace and the Zenana have only recently been

defaced

defaced by the ugliest of all sanitary expedients. Whitewash!

I presume this was done just before His Excellency's visit. A somewhat similar act was performed at Madura before the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. the interior of the Palace was washed a bilious yellow which successfully vulgarized the edifice and completely effaced all our guides to restoration.

As it stands the Chandragiri Palace is a most picturesque and interesting specimen of antiquity, and it would be a matter for regret to modernize it by restorative measures. at the same time the fact must be borne in mind that it is a most difficult thing to preserve in a state of ruinous repair a building whose claims to veneration arise more from hard usage than actual age. for the agents producing this result too surely continue their work. During the past 40 or 50 years the building has been protected by mud walls constructed in the outer openings. I do not imagine that these eyesores will be allowed to remain and I have specified for their removal, but when this is done, the whole building will be as heretofore an open colonade at the mercy of wind and rain.

In the estimate submitted with this report I have only provided

provided for the expense of converting one room into a useful residence and for removing obvious excrescences. It is a question for His Excellency in Council to decide whether it would not be advisable in addition to these works to protect the whole building by closing the external openings with glass and venetians.

Provided the work so added is painted its natural color and not vulgarized by white, green, or any other fancy tone these additions will not detract from the age of the shell of the building, while they will afford that protection so necessary for its preservation

The provision of a cookroom I found a matter of difficulty- At present the cooking is performed in compartment O 5 on the face of the building and the smoke escapes any way and every way. It would be better could we insure its use to construct a separate cookroom apart from the main structure, but the steep and dangerous stairs would be so much a cause of inconvenience to all concerned that I feel certain no precautions would prevent a lapse into the present state of affairs. I have therefore accepted the position of the cookroom on the first floor as a necessary evil, and I have indeavoured to make the

The old mud Palaces B see the general plan is deserving of passing notice. I append a drawing of it No 10 and sketch elevation of the only door now remaining. It will be seen that it was an admirably planned structure chastly finished within and although only constructed of mud, was probably a cooler and more comfortable dwelling than many of greater pretensions. It is not generally known that buildings of this description when skillfully constructed and skillfully maintained are in this country as permanent as the more costly structures.

I may mention in

conclusion that if it is considered desirable. I could easily complete a drawing of the Palace finished according to my idea of the intentions of the original builders. but I doubt if such a work would serve any really useful purpose.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servant

R F Chisholm
Consg. Archt. to Govt.
On Special duty

Camp Gingee
23rd February 1885

No. 40

~~From~~

R. F. Chisholm Esqre.
Consg. Archt. to Govt.
On Special duty

To

The Chief Engineer
Roads & Buildings
Chepauk

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O. No. 310. W. dated the 10th Feby. 1885. on the subject of Chandragari Palace, and to state that no part of the building is in an unsafe condition or in danger of falling hence it will be quite unnecessary to incur any special expenditure over and above that periodically granted for petty repairs.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt. Servant

Consg: Archt to Govt
On Special duty

310 W d/ 10/2/85
170 C d/ 29/1/85
2073 W d/ 22/10/84
2050 W d/ 11/10/83
801 C d/ 26/7/82
512 E d/ 2/6/82
960 W d/ 31/3/79
772 d/ 7/3/79

Pr. Dis. 1848

From
R. F. Chisholm Esqre
Consy Archt to Govt
on special duty

To
The Chief Engineer

No. 40

dated 23rd February 1885
Recd 2. 3. 85

No. of Enclosures

Chandragari Palace

Informing that no part of the — building is in an unsafe condition or in danger of falling-

---

3468

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

READ the following :—

Letter from Mr R. F. Chisholm, Consg. Architect, on Special duty, No 40, d/ 23.2.85. relative to old Palace at Chandragiri -

FOR ORDERS.

Submitted for information with advertence to the remarks by H. E. the Governor, and the Hon'ble member, on the "for orders" sheets attached to Pros. No 310 W dated 10th February 1885.

W.
6.3.85

W

C.W.
3.3.85

83½

FOR ORDERS.

The Hon'ble H. E. Sullivan

His Exc. the Governor

I have discussed this matter with H.E. the Governor, who is of opinion that the necessities of the case will be met if sanction be accorded to the first of the two estimates submitted by Mr. Chisholm. Draft accordingly. HES

21·3·85

731 W

No. 731.W 3468 P. W. Department, B & R

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the 23rd March/85

Read again the follg: papers:—

Letter from Mr. Chisholm, Consg. Architect on special duty - - - - (H.E. No. 17 d/ January 19th/85)

Do. do. (" " 29 d/ " 31st ")

Proceedings of Government (" " 310 W d/ Feby: 10th ")

Read also:—

Letter from Mr. Chisholm, Consg. Architect on special duty - - - No. 40 d/ " 23d "

These papers relate to estimates for repairs necessary for the preservation of the old palace of Chandragiri, the preparation of which was one of the special duties assigned to Mr Chisholm in G.O. dated 22d August 1884, No 2073 W.

2. Mr Chisholm has submitted two proposals: the first embracing, briefly, the removal of mud walls which have been inserted in the openings of the buildings, the plastering of floors; the provision of doors where necessary; the removal of vegetation and debris; and the provision of one decently habitable room as a rest house for travellers. Estimated cost Rs 2491.

3. The second proposal, estimated to cost Rs 4,397, provides for the protection of the building by placing venetians in the external openings.

4. In their Proceedings No 310 W d/ 10th February 1885, the Government did not consider the large Expenditure ~~thus~~ involved in the 2 Estimate to be justifiable; ~~but in~~ ~~on reconsideration~~ and His Excellency the Governor in Council is now of opinion that the necessities of the case will be met by the execution of the work provided for in the first estimate of Rs 2491, which is accordingly

sanctioned.

5. The work will be carried out by the Ex: Engineer N. Arcot Division, who will apply to Mr Chisholm for advice, if necessary.

6. The Supdg Engr V Circle will ask for the requisite funds in 1885/86.

7. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No 285 W of 1885/86, and classified as Civil Buildings, ~~Orig~~ Repairs.

W.M.

CM
23.3.85

W
23-3-85

Cu

Drawings to be kept in Technical Branch for future reference, if required.
Cu

1 — D.M.
1/15

W
24/3

Dd/W

To,

The S.E. V Circle, with estimate & specification & plans.
R.F. Chisholm Esqre
The Cons. Architect to Govt.
Examiner P.W. Accts.
1W Public dept

237

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

2873

Dated

Recd. Recd.

G.O., 23 Nov 1885, No. 73/4

Old Palace at

Chandragiri

Drawing to be [illegible]

[illegible]

80/6

No 20 25/3

P. W. D.

3468

Consulting Architect's Office,
Chepauk, Madras,
2nd April 1885

No. 46

From
R. F. Chisholm Esqre
The Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras,
On Special duty

To
The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Enclosures.

x Is put up

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to grant me permission to publish for the benefit of the profession generally drawing No. 12x forwarded to you with my letter No. 14 dated the 9th of January 1883 on the subject of the old Palace at Chandragari and that you will kindly return the drawing if my request is acceded to.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant
R Chisholm
Cons. Archt to Govt
on Special duty

44

Rc 753 Cay 10th April 85

C

There is no objection to the publication of the drawing which is herewith returned

CS.
7.4.85

LS.
8.4.85

G.O. A/731 W a/ 23-3-85
" B/310 W a/ 10-2-85
" 178 C a/ 29-1-85
G.O. A/2073 W a/ 22-8-83
" 2858 W a/ 11-10-83
No. 801 of 26-9-82
G.O. B/ " 512 E a/ 2-8-82
960 W a/ 31-3-79
" 792 of 7-3-77

R. F. Chisholm Esqr
with drawing

10/4

P. W. D.

Roads and Buildings.

From R. F. Chisholm Esqr
THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

The Chief Engineer
P.W. Dept

2 APL 85

No. 46

Dated 2nd April 1885

Received

Rc 753 Cay 10-4-85

No. of Enclosures.

Subject.

Requests permission to publish for the benefit of the profession in general, drawing No. 2 forwarded with the Chandragiri papers with letter No. 17 of 9 January 1885

with disposal

3468

46

No. 753 C of 10-4-85
" 731 W . 23-3-85
" 310 W . 10-2-85
" 178 C . 29-1-85
" 2073 W . 22-8-84
" 2858 W . 11-10-83
" 801 E . 26-9-82
" 512 E . 2-8-82
" 960 W . 31-3-79
" 792 . 7-3-77

1889.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 10796

From The Public Dept

Enclos.—

No. —

Dated 12th Novr 1889

Received 13 — do —

Subject.

Requesting for refer P.W. G.O. subsequent to P. No. 310 W of 10 Feby 1885 regarding the old Palace at Chandragir

Disposal.

No. 5267 C Dated 13th Novr 18

Memo

A copy of G.O. dated 23-3-85, No 731 W (the last order on the subject) is enclosed.

The work therein sanctioned was completed in August 1889 at a cost of Rs 2581.

D 13/11 (Sd) W. L. C. Baddeley
Capt. R.

D. P. W

No 439 M.

3468

North Arcot Division Office
Camp Vellore 5th August 1889.

From

Major C. C. Rawson R. E.
Executive Engineer
North Arcot Division

To

The Collector
North Arcot.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the estimate which has just been completed for repairs to the Chendragiri palace only allowed for work to be done to the 1st floor. If the building is to be maintained, work is required to preserve both the 2d floor and the roof of the palace from further decay.

2 As the Palace is visited by a considerable number of distinguished visitors in addition to the District officers, I should suggest also that some of the rooms be built up so as to give a certain amount of privacy; the last estimate although

prepared with the object of rendering a portion of the building habitable makes no provision whatever for either bathing or dressing rooms.

3 I hope that you may think it right to move the Board of Revenue to apply to Government to sanction a further grant of money to preserve this very interesting building from decay, and to render it more fitted for the accommodation of travellers than it is now.

I have &c

Sd/ C. C. Rawson Major R.E.
Ex. Engineer · N. Arcot Div.

Ref. on Gl Eng no 4494 of 89

BOARD'S GEN. REG. No 2524 OF 1889
LAND REVENUE.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

2 I approve of the Executive Engineer's suggestion to execute further repairs to the palace and request that Government sanction may be obtained for the same. Perhaps Government might find it possible to allot Rs 5,000 to start with, and Rs 2,000 a year for a few years until the building is thoroughly protected. To this end the Executive Engineer might be asked to submit an estimate for making the whole building safe and restoring it in conformity with the original design.

3468

North Arcot Collector's Office
Chittoor 12th August 1889

W. McLaurin
Collector

AM
CS

Sallor

RM 11-471
89

Rev/ 589/89

3468

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

Dated 24th August 1889.

No. 5109 Mis:

W. S. Whiteside Esq.

The Hon: J. Grose m.a.

READ — Endorsement of the Collector of N. Arcot, dated 12th August 1889, Ref on No: 4494/Ex Eng, on letter from the Executive Engineer, dated 5 August 1889. No: 439/Mo.

Resolution

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board Cannot trace any papers about the building in their office

(True Extract)

Secretary

To. The Secy: to Govt RD with letter in original to be retd:

Copy to the Col. of N. Arcot.

Prore

Lio.

No 792 d/ 7.3.77
" 960 W d/ 31.1.87
" 512 E d/ 2.8.82
" 801 E d/ 26.9.82
" 2858 W d/ 11.10 83
" 2073 W d/ 22.8.84
" 178 C d/ 29.1.85
" 310 W d/ 10.2.85
" 731 W d/ 23.3.85
" 753 C d/ 10.4.85
" 5267 C d/ 13.11.89

Enclos
P.W. 11477
89

P.W. No 11475

(1889.)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 6589

Pro:
From The Board of Revenue (L.R.)

No 3468 W d/ 5th December 1889

Dated 24/8
Received 27/8
Enclosures 1

No 5109 mis:

SUBJECT.

Submitting for the orders of Government application of the Collector of North Arcot, for a further grant of money for repairing the Chendragiri palace so as to prevent its falling into decay.

Transferred
P.J.G.

ABSTRACT.

Public Cho: 3048

Endorsement, No 6076

Transferred to the Public Department with the remark that no papers connected with the repairs of the chendragiri palace are traceable in the Revenue Department.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
30 SEP 89
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

J. Grose
Ag: Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George
26th September 1889

Enclos 2

R 30

Recd 2 12 89

To
The Public Deptt.

Dy 29 November 89

Transferred to the Public Works department with reference to Gos. No 310. W. d/ 10th Feb: 1885 and 731. W. d/ 23rd March 1885.

Chief Secretary.

3468

No. 3468 W.d/5th December 1859

~~Hon~~

B

Nos
4 on

Communicated to the Supt. Engineer V Circle who will, in communication with the Collector, submit an estimate for what is proposed to be done to ~~the restoration~~ ~~of~~ the building.

M.C.B.
3.12.59

Rue
3.12.59

B. Maj

50

S.E. V Circle

Mw. 3.XII
A4

IEC 10/12

10/12

D 7/12