

(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள்

(3) ஆதாரங் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கப்படும்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண்.

மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.

அச்சகம்

பலவகை

நாள் :

15/1/1894

199

மடிக்கவோ சுண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது.

2/1/90

செய்து

ஆவண. கா. 1—18,006—6-9-90.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From A. REA, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camp, Adóni, 29th November 1893, No. 409.

With reference to your demi-official letter, dated 24th April 1893, I have the honour to report on the palace and fort at Chandragiri.

2. *Palace.*—The mahal is structurally in good condition, and likely to remain so if it is kept free of plants. It is constructed of brick and stone masonry throughout; no wood has been used in its construction, except a few beams in the interior of the towers which rise from the roof.

3. The most of the plastering which covered the exterior walls is gone. Entire re-plastering is neither desirable nor necessary, and the cost would be prohibitive.

4. For the convenience of visitors, the west end of the first-storey corridor has been walled off and is used as a kitchen. An iron chimney projects out at one of the back windows and is carried some height up the back wall. The appearance of the flue in its present position is objectionable, and the kitchen should be removed elsewhere. There are no detached buildings near except the ruined mad building opposite, and unless a new kitchen can be built, the centre room on the west of the ground floor might be so used. If the kitchen is removed from its present position, the walls which have been built between the arches to enclose it might be taken down, so as to leave the corridor in its original condition, open from end to end.

5. The interiors of the rooms on the first storey have been restored in tinted plaster. The back arched corridor, on to which these rooms open, has been left rough and whitewashed. Opposite the entrances to these rooms, the new plaster has been returned a short distance along the corridor walls, making a most inharmonious contrast. The whole of the walls, ceilings and transverse arches of the corridor should be rough-plastered and tinted to correspond with the rooms. Should the cost of plastering be excessive, perhaps tinting alone might serve the purpose. The vaulted brick ceilings of the corridor have originally been each panelled as a square, divided into nine small panels, as appears from the lines of projecting bricks. At some of the intersections of the squares, iron hooks yet project through the bricks. These have been for affixing plaster pateras or such ornaments. In re-plastering, no ornament should be applied, as none of the originals remain as a guide to the design. The ribs of the panels should be of plain square section as appears on certain fragmentary portions yet entire. Some fractures on the transverse arches which support the ceilings of the corridor should be examined. The four transverse arches opposite the entrance to the hall are cracked from the crown upwards. In one case the crack extends across the brick-arched ceiling.

6. Some of the bolt fastenings of the doors of the central hall and the outer entrances to the stairs on the ground floor have been wrenched loose.

7. *Ladies' Mahal.*—A great portion of the ornamental plaster-work on the arches, spandrels and cornices of the east front is in fair condition and needs nothing done to it. Some fragments of what has been an extensive decoration in colored tiles yet remain on the front. They are of the same materials and design as some on one of the buildings at Vijayanagar. The designs are floral, figure, and geometrical; blue

on a white ground. Many have doubtless been wrenched off, but others may have fallen and be lying under the surface. A slight trench dug along the front of the base might lead to the recovery of any fragments yet existing. As they are of great interest, any such—whole or fragmentary—should be carefully preserved and sent to the Madras museum.

8. Of the five arched windows of the upper front storey, two only retain the ornamental tracery of transoms and mullions. One of these is in a dangerous condition as one of its two supporting brick mullions is away. This should be rebuilt, as otherwise the upper overhanging tracery—only held in position by the cohesion of the mortar—may fall.

9. Some plants on the roof require removal.

10. There is stated to be an underground passage connecting the two mahals. The spot where it enters is said to be at the north room on the front of this mahal. If it really exists, it would add additional interest to the place to have it opened out. A slight digging at the spot indicated would prove the matter.

11. *Road Gateways.*—On the road from the village to the mahal, two gateways are passed through. They have groups of well-carved columns standing on a platform on each side of the covered way. Though the battlements of the flanking walls are gone, the lower parts of these walls are solidly constructed and yet entire. There are numbers of bushes and a large tree growing on them, which should be removed.

12. A side built-up entrance at the eastern gate is in a dangerous state, and must either have the masonry blocking backed up or taken down.

13. The west gate is in a particularly dangerous condition. The walls of the covered way have been constructed in the usual Vijayanagar style, of two facings of large, flat blocks set on edge, with a packing between them. The outer face and packing are gone, and only the inner face remains. Shaking or displacement of any of the stones would probably bring the whole structure down bodily. A large mass of the brickwork of the east pediment has fallen to one side and displaced some large stones of the wall; some six of these overhang the roadway.

14. *Fort.*—The south gateway of the fort, situated about three-fourths of the way up the hill above the palace, is a structure well worthy of preservation and one of the most perfect buildings on the hill. It consists of three bastions with the entrance between the upper two. The flanking walls yet retain their battlements and loopholed balconies supported on corbels. It is in almost perfect condition and is constructed of large, rough-dressed stones closely jointed without mortar. Its excellent construction has largely resisted the penetration of plant roots, and its position has prevented the walls being demolished. At a few places, however, some plants have found root. In particular, on the south bastion, the roots of a large banian have spread themselves over the wall, and, unless removed, will fracture it from top to bottom. The complete removal of all vegetation from the walls is all that is required, and the gateway may then be expected to remain in its present state of preservation for an indefinite period.

ORDER—dated 22nd December 1893, No. 1018, Public.

The attention of Government having been drawn to the neglected state of the palace and fort at Chandragiri, the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, was directed to inspect and report upon them.

2. After perusing Mr. Rea's remarks, the Government is of opinion that immediate steps should be taken to preserve and protect the buildings from further injury.

3. The Public Works Department will be requested to submit at an early date an estimate for the several alterations and repairs suggested by Mr. Rea, and the Collector of North Arcot will issue immediate orders for having the walls, &c., cleared of all vegetation, particularly banian roots.

4. The Collector will in future pay special regard to the buildings in view to their maintenance in a state of proper preservation. He will see that any small and necessary repairs are carried out from time to time by the Executive Engineer, and he will himself adopt steps for the removal of any obnoxious vegetation.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
" Public Works Department.
" Collector of North Arcot.

Govt. of {1893} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 22nd Dec. 1893, No. 1018.

DECEMBER.

Chandragiri Palace and Fort.

Issuing instructions for the protection and
preservation of the — buildings.

With order

No. 89. Wd/15 January 1894
Communicated to
the Supty. Engineer, TV Circle,
who will submit the
required estimate at
an early date.

(Sd) J.P.

W.

Sr. IV Circle