Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2345 W

DATED 9th Sept '98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Taluk office at Koilkuntla

— Gov: Rev: Dept approving of the site recommended by the Bd of Rev: for the construction of a first class ——— & directing that the Cutcherry should provide accommodation also for a Sub Registrar's office, Commd: with remarks to the S.E. IIIrd Circle, for submission of the requisite plans & Estimates.

J.

Indexed. 12/9

[P. W. 23.
1,000—23-6-98.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1436 C		d/ 8·3·98				
	5080 C		d/ 26·11·97				
	1151 W		d/ 4·5·97				
	3519 W		d/ 8·12·96				
	348 W		d/ 5·2·97				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

E-4

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 7379

From

The Revenue Dept.

B/

Order No: 2345 W d/ 9·9·98.

No. 3443 Rev.

Communicated to the Supt. Engineer III Circle for the submission of plans and estimates for constructing a new first class taluk office with a sub registrar's office at Koil-Kuntla on the site recommended by the Board of Revenue, utilizing as far as possible, the materials of the existing cutchery

2·9·98

W

Dated 23rd August '98

Received 1st September 1898

Registered 5·9·98

Enclosures 5. (1 Plan)

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Approving a site for the construction of a first class taluk office at Koil-Kuntla, providing also accommodation for the Sub-Registrar's office

Mas

To The S. E. III Circle with plan

d 10/9/98

T/B

HC

05/96

BACK PAPERS.

BACK PAPERS.		FURTHER PAPERS.	
No.	Date.	No.	Date.

No. 41C

Supdg. Engineer's Office, III Circ

Camp Horsley Konda
~~Bellary~~, 15th November 18 97

From

A. H. Garrett Esqr.

Supdg. Engineer, III Circle,

Bellary.

To

The Chief Engineer,

P. W. Department,

Madras.

Sir,

G.O. 1157 W / 4-5-97

G.O. 2731 Rev / 28.5.97

Referring to this Office No. 6W of 1st April 1897, I have the honour to inform you that the further investigations proposed have been carried out without throwing any additional light on the cause of failure of the building.

2. The Executive Engineer reports however that the tower is now showing signs of settlement, so that we could not ensure the safety of a new building in this locality, merely by increasing the depth of the foundations; and whatever precautions might be taken there would always be great risk in building on the present site.

3. It will I fear be necessary to go a considerable distance in order to get good soil

for

or foundations.

The new site selected by Mr de Vinton is in the angle formed by the roads to Bhemanapad and Nassam, and is about ×
miles from the present Cutcherry.

(4200 ft)

5 A trial pit has been sunk here 16½' in depth, which shows 11 feet of "compact clay" overlying 5½' of sand.

6. The Executive Engineer suggests foundations 12' deep, but if the clay is as described, 4' should be ample. The foundations should be well spread out, and 6" of well rammed gravel should be placed all round the building for a width of 9', so as to lead off water & prevent it getting into the foundations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Supdtg: Engineer, III Circle.

× Distance was subsequently reported

1/Gt-2525 of 98

8
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Enclosure No. 3
Support No. 1981

8
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Enclosure No. 4
Support No. 4932

Copy of letter No 5963 D/7 February 98 from J. C. Johnston Esq Exec: Engineer Kurnool Divn to the Supt. Engineer III Circle Bellary

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With reference to your No 40 C of 15th November 1897, I have the honour to inform you that the distance of the proposed site for the new Cutcherry which is in the angle formed by the roads leading to Nossam and to Manpaud from the existing Cutcherry is 4200 ft.

2 A tracing showing the relative position and directions is also submitted.

Enclo.
1 Tracing

(Copy)

No 6177 W of 24 February 1898

Submitted to the Chief Engineer P. W. D, Madras for information

No. 1436C

Government of Madras,

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM.

Dated Madras, 8th March 1898.

Letters from the Superintending Engineer III Circle No. 41C dated 15-11-97 and No. 6/77 W dated 24-2-97.
~~Do Do No 6177W, d 2~~

Note by the Chief Engineer P.W.D. dated ~~December 1897~~ 8th March 1898

The Koilkuntla taluk office was ~~beg~~ begun in 1872 according to the standard plan of 1871, was stopped for sometime and recommenced in 1874. The work was completed in 1880 at a cost of Rs 68,921. The first mention made of bad work in the construction of the Cutcherry is in G.O. No. 2195 W of 17 May 1878 in which certain officers were punished for allowing bad work and excessive prices. Apparently cracks had begun to to appear not very long after the building was finished, for it is found that an estimate for repairing cracks was prepared in 1886 and an outlay of Rs 1362 incurred thereon during 1887-88. It was however in the beginning of 1891 that the building demanded serious attention, for Mr Johnston Executive Engineer after inspecting it in April of that year reported that the "cracks had got much worse

P. W. 41.
1,000—28-2-98.

worse since the Superintending Engineer's last inspection" (date not known) and recommended that the building should be vacated. Presumably in pursuance of this recommendation the Taluk Establishment removed to the Local Fund Choultry at the Station in June 1891.

2. In G.O. No. 2906 W dated 18th October 1892, Government called on the Superintending Engineer for explanation of the delay alleged by the Board of Revenue as having occurred in the disposal, by him, of the estimate for repair of the building. Thereupon the Superintending Engineer, Col. A.T. Fraser R.E. submitted certain correspondence (vide G.O. No. 3003 W dated 1st November 92) which while accounting for the delay disclosed the following to have been his opinion, in August 1892 of the state of the building:— N.C.

4920
16.11.92

(a) That the evident cause of the continuous subsidence in the foundations was the existence of the river close to the site,

(b) that neither a lighter roof nor lowering the walls would promise success, but that the plan might be tried of opening out the Verandah flooring and laying a mass of concrete all round the base of the main exterior walls, under-pinning part of the foundations.

(c) that surface drains would be required round the whole building to carry off rain water and prevent it soaking into the foundations.

The suggestions I then made could not however be immediately carried out as there was heavy rain just then and the subsoil was so soft that the Executive Engineer feared that were excavation attempted, the earth would dissolve away and the excavation become unmanageable. The removal of the treacherous clay soil and the laying down of concrete for a certain thickness to render the old walls perfectly safe, were accordingly the remedies which Col. Fraser hoped, in October 1892, to apply with success in repairing the building.

3. In December of the same year, Col Fraser after inspection of the building submitted a report (vide G.O. No. 3482 W dated 20-12-92) to the following effect:—

5678
24.12.92

The building has adequate foundations, but the subsoil is the peculiar Magnesian earth which swells when wet and shrinks in drying. Water is also within 5 feet of the surface. It consists of three solidly built wings with mortar of varying but moderate quality. The West or Prison wing was in order. The centre one with the tower required a comparatively inexpensive alteration of two partition archways to give a better distribution ~~of~~ to the weight of the terrace. It was in the East wing occupied by ~~se~~ the Taluk Office Establishment that the terrace

4932

terrace had been nearly all dismantled, the semi-circular arches forming the partitions being badly cracked. Col. Fraser thought that these cracks were due to a slight yielding of the foundations, on a portion of one side, setting up strains in the arched masonry, due to a great weight of the terrace roof and the mode of its distribution. The main walls were little if at all disturbed. He was accordingly of opinion that, by removing the archways and roofing the whole East wing with Mangalore mission tiles on planking supported on trusses and rafters, and by putting in a ~~strap~~ strip of concrete between the Verandah and main walls, all round the building, with river sand above the concrete instead of earth, the Taluk Office could at a small outlay be "soon rendered fit for occupation and in fact as sound as ever". An estimate on these lines amounting to Rs 5,680 was sanctioned in G.O. No. 1186 W dated 2nd May 1893, and Rs 2382 appears to have been spent during 1893-94.

1964
30.5.93

4. The next that we hear of the building was when the Board of Revenue reported (Mis: Pros. No. 3112 d/ 6th June 1894, in Rev. G.O. No. 2437 Mis: d/ 22nd June 1894) to Government, "that the Koilkuntla Taluk Cutchery which was recently repaired (vide G.O. No. 1186 W d/ 2-5-93), is again in a dangerous state". And the Superintending Engineer Col. A.T. Fraser was again called on to explain. His first explanation, No. 942 d/. 12-7-94, was reassuring enough. "In consequence of the appearance of a few cracks" He.

1964
31.5.93

He wrote, "the Taluk Establishment took alarm at Koilkuntla". The building was in no danger whatever; but he purposed improving one of the archways a little and making some special repairs (Rs 939 appears to have been spent on these during 1895-96). The few wall cracks he attributed to the shrinking of the soft soil and there was no cross strain developed to cause any part to give way, as the large archways were replaced by trusses.

5. Mr. A. C. Pereira, Executive Engineer inspected the building on 10th September 1895. He noticed that not only were the cracks far more numerous than during his previous inspection (May 1894) but that they had extended to other parts of the building where they were not noticed before, the most serious of all being those in the clerks' rooms (East wing) measuring 2½" wide. He wrote "the entire angle of the building is moving outwards and is now much out of the vertical" and considered it not safe to use those rooms. After describing the various parts of the building and noticing the apparent inadequacy of the foundations, he was of opinion, that it was "useless to patch up the building any more, nothing which can be done now can make it a satisfactory building with all anxiety about it set at rest."

And

And recommended the preparation of an estimate for a new building at a fresh site on the left bank of the Kandair. In forwarding this letter to Government with his No. 2834 dated 6th December 1895, Col. D. McNeil Campbell R.E. (then Superintending Engineer) after an inspection of the building on 30. November 1895, wrote "the condition of the building has been by no means exaggerated by the Executive Engineer; in fact since his inspection several fresh cracks have appeared"; "the greater portion of the building is simply a network of cracks some of them being over 2" in width". The detached buildings were in good order and the tower perfect. Col. Campbell tested Mr. Pereira's statement whether the walls were out of the perpendicular and found the deflection hardly perceptible. The Sheristadar's and clerks' rooms being the most dangerous part of the building, Col. Campbell ordered the rooms to be vacated and the entrances closed with bamboos.

6. The causes of the failure, he considered were:—
(1) The soil which expands and shrinks with wet & heat;
(2) Foundations not sufficiently deep. He did not think that the failure could be put down to bad work in the superstructure.

7. In view of so many bad cracks in the building Col Campbell was of opinion that ordinary remedies such as rods and buttresses would be useless and he accordingly strongly recommended that it be abandoned and a New Cutchery

Constructed,

Constructed, the old materials being utilized as far as possible. The Subjail and outhouses were to be left as they were for use for any other purpose.

8. Col. Campbell considered ~~that~~ only two sites as suitable for the building, the first in Koilkuntla village, field No. 31, about ~~1½~~ 1½ miles from the present building on the road to Bhumanipad and the second in Joladarasi village, field No. 457 on the Nandyal side of the Kundair river. In view however of the probable inconvenience of these two sites, he was "inclined to think it would be safe to build the new Cutchery on soil similar to that on which the present one stands, the foundations being taken ~~down~~ down much deeper" to a level where "the soil will not be affected by atmospheric changes". Such a site, he said, could be found within half a mile of the ~~pres~~ present Cutchery. Government ordered on this letter that plans and estimates be prepared for a new Cutchery, G.O. No. 284W dated 23rd January 1896.

401
28.1.96.
[illegible] 418
25-1
[illegible] W

9. Col Campbell's last suggestion that a building may be built on a similar site with deeper foundations to avoid the alternative of inconvenient, but from a professional point of view suitable, sites, gave rise to the enquiry "whether

it

it would not be advisable to reconstruct the portions of the present building which have been pulled down, with deeper foundations". The Superintending Engineer was called on in G.O. No 569W dated 15th February 1896 to report on this question.

776
21.2.96

10. After making investigations on the spot as to the nature of the soil and sub-soil, the Superintending Engineer Mr. deWinton, was of opinion that the building had been built across an old water course, that the sub-soil water of this old water course still finds its way through the lower strata under the Cutcherry and produces disturbance as the water level rises and falls. But the evidence he had was far too inadequate to enable him to decide whether it was advisable to rebuild the clerks' rooms on the existing site. A thorough examination of the foundations over a wide area and an investigation of the cause of the failure at its worst point, had still to be done; as the building then was, he considered it "so shaken that unless we can find means of stopping further subsidence, it will undoubtedly have, sooner or later, to be entirely renewed".

11. A further thorough examination of the Cutcherry was made, the results of which were reported to Government in Superintending Engineer's letter No 1071 dated 13th July 1896 with G.O. No. 2173W dated 28th July 1896. The Superintending Engineer "completely failed" to discover the cause of failure of the foundations of the clerks' rooms. "The whole structure had undoubtedly subsided to the north, the South side including the tower, being apparently unaffected except by the strains produced by the subsidence of the northern half of the building. The cracks in the walls extend right down into and through the concrete and the motion is still in progress throughout the building, there being a distinct increase almost everywhere in the last four months". He found the foundation of the clerks' rooms where the cracks in the superstructure were at a maximum, to be of exceptional width and depth and of particularly good material. These could in no wise account for the very serious failure of the building. "Looking however to the fact that the movement of the building is still in progress and that whatever the cause may be it is practically certain that we cannot now stop it," the Superintending Engineer had reluctantly to conclude that the Cutcherry must be condemned and a new one built on another site; and he accordingly recommended this course. As regards the site, with the object lesson of the ruined Cutcherry staring one in the face, the Superintending Engineer did not like to recommend that the risk should be incurred of building on soil similar to the one on which the present Cutcherry stands. He accordingly recommended

G.O. 3146
8.8.96
in
P.S.R. 4966 Mis
6.11.96
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recommended one of the two sites already proposed by Col.
Campbell. The cost of the building he estimated at
between Rs10,000 and Rs 12,000, making allowance for
the materials which could be utilized from the present
building. On this letter the Revenue Department was
requested to obtain orders on the following points:—

(1) Whether a new Taluk Office shall be constructed
(2) If so the class of building for which estimates should
be prepared and
(3) The site for the new building. G.O. No 2173 Wd/28-7-96.

G.O. 3176
8.8.96

12. The Board in reporting (Pros: No. 4966 Mis: d/6-11-96)
on these points agreed with the Collector that a
new Taluk Cutcherry should be built on the site
selected on the right bank of the Kundera, halfway
between Koilkuntla town and Bhemunipad village,
according to the revised type-design providing full
accommodation for a Taluk Office, with reference to
certain orders, but Government in the Revenue Depart-
-ment in G.O. No. 361 Misc d/21-1-97 considered that
"the location of a Taluk Cutcherry in an uninhabited
quarter such as that now proposed appears to be
open to very grave objection" and accordingly
desired "that further efforts may be made to ascertain
the true cause of the failure of the present building"
and enquired whether a light building of a design
suited to the soil may not be built in the
town itself.

361
21.1.97

2731
28.5.97

13. The Superintending Engineer in his No 6 W (vide G.O. No. 1161 W d/14-5-97)
dated

dated 1st April 1897, after a further inspection of
the building reported that the cracks in certain
portions of the building had greatly increased,
and promised to examine further into the
cause of the failure. The Superintending Engineer
himself had no great hope that any further
evidence would be forthcoming and considered
the most probable cause to be the contraction
and expansion of the subsoil due to changes
of temperature or ebb and flow of water,
one of the chief reasons for thinking so
being that the tower, the heaviest part of
the building with the deepest foundations
showed no signs of settlement. The Super-
-intending Engineer considered it more than
probable that if the whole of the foundations
of the building had been carried down to the
same depth as those of the tower, there would
have been ~~to~~ no subsidence. But pending the
further examination of the foundations, he
recommended that the question of site be
held in abeyance.

In his No. 41C dated 15th November 1897, the
Superintending Engineer Mr. A. H. Garrett reported
that the investigations already proposed
have been carried out without ~~to~~ throwing
any additional light on the cause of failure of
the building. On the other hand it would
seem that the tower is now showing
signs

signs of settlement, so that the safety of a new building in the locality cannot be ensured merely by increasing the depth of the foundations. The Superintending Engineer accordingly thinks that whatever precautions might be taken, there would always be great risk in building on the present site.

14. The undersigned now recommends that the Cutcherry be built on the outskirts of Koilkuntla on the angle (vide site plan enclosed in letter from the Superintending Engineer III Circle No. 6177W of 24·2·98) formed by the roads to Bheemunipad and Nossam on the new type-design, with foundations 5ft deep, and of such width that not more than ½ ton per square foot shall be placed upon ~~it~~ them. The undersigned considers that if this is done there is a reasonable guarantee that the building will stand, but the soil is so treacherous thereabouts that the undersigned declines to say definitely that it will do so, and if Government wishes to have the Cutcherry on this more convenient spot, the risk must be taken of possible failure.

(Sd) W. B. de Winton
Ag Chief Engineer

Forwarded

Dis. 4
7329

gt 2825

1898
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
No. 3
4932

vide his letter in his capacity ~~of~~ as Superintending Engineer
Chief Engineer No. 107/13-7-96

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reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 742
dated 9th July 1898.

Read Endorsement of the Acting Under Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, No. 1577 Mis, dated 5th April 1898 and the
following Reference No. 436, dated 18th April 1898
Referred to the Collector of Kurnool for early re-
port.

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Read also G.O. Revenue Department, No. 925, dated 6th June
1898 and the following Reference No. 654, dated 15th June 1898:-
Forwarded to the Collector of Kurnool in continuation of
Board's Reference, No. 436, dated 18th April 1898 with the re
quest that the report called for by Government may be sub-
mitted without further delay.

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Read also the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool
Dis. No. 2294/General of 1898 dated 18th June 1898 :-
In reply to Board's Reference No. 436, dated 18th April
1898, I have the honour to report as follows :-
On personal inspection of the different sites proposed
for the construction of a new building for the Koilkuntla
Taluk Office, I am decidedly of opinion that the one about a
mile and a half from Koilkuntla near the Bheemunipad Road is
far better than the one adjoining Koilkuntla as the soil of
the latter is very loose and consequently risky, while that
of the former is strong and substantial. Mr. De Winton's
selection of it was very good and I agree with him in his
opinion about its soil. It is a little distant from the Koil-
kuntla village but this cannot cause much inconveneience, the
Nandyal Taluk office is about of the same distance from the
Town.

The enclosures to the Board's Reference are herewith re-
turned.

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Reference No. 742, dated 9th July 1898.

The Kurnool Collector's letter No. 2294, dated 18th June 18
will be submitted to Government with reference to its Endor
ment

Endorsement No. 1577 Mis,dated 5th April 1898 calling for a report as to whether the site on the outskirts of Koilkuntla at the angle formed by the roads to Bhiminipad and Nossam, selected the Public Works Department for the Taluk office Koilkuntla, may accepted.

2. The Collector agrees with Mr. De Winton in thinking t the soil of this site is treacherous and accordingly recommends reversion to the site in field No. 31 of Koilkuntla village, abou a mile and a half from the present cutcherry the soil of which he describes as strong and substantial. This is ths site which was approved by Col. Campbell and Mr. De Winton in 1896. It was however disapproved by Government in its Order, No. 361 Mis, dated 21st January 1397, on the ground that the location of a Taluk Cutcherry in an uninhabited quarter was open to very grave objection As no safe and suitable site is available, the Board would repeat its recommendation in para. 2 of Board's Proceedings No. 4966 Mis, dated 6th November 1896 to build the cutcherry on the site proposed by the Collector. The Collector points out that the Nandyal Taluk office is situated at about the same distance from the town as the site of the proposed cutcherry is from Koilkuntla village, and the Board considers thatthe risk of building on the unstable sites in the immediate vicinity of Koilkuntla constitutes an even graver objection than the location of a cutcherry in an uninhabited quarter.

(Signed) Lionel Davidson,
Ag. Secretary.
(True Copy)

For Secretary to Govt.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

$\frac{F}{17}$ 1,000-30-9-97.

ROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again G. O. No. 3176 Mis,dated 8th August 1896, referring to the Board of Revenue for report G. O. Public Works Department, No. 2173 W,dated 28th July 1896.

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Read again G. O. No. 361 Mis,dated 21st January 1397,

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Read also Reference of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue)No. 742 dated 9th July 1398.

y attached.

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Read also reminder from the Public Works Department, No. $\frac{1436\ C}{2}$, dated 13th August 1398,requesting the favour of an early reply to the memo. regarding the site proposed for constructing a new taluk office at Koilkuntla.

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Order thereon,No. 3443 Mis,d/23rd August 1398.

In the circumstances reported the Government approves of the site on the bank of the Kanderu about half wa between Koilkuntla Town and Bhemunipad village which is recommended by the Collector and the Board. The new cutcherr should be constructed according to the revised type design for 1st class taluk offices and should also provide acco modation for a Sub-Registrar's Office.

(True Extract)

For Secretary to Govt.

To the Public Works Department with encls. ~~and copy of Collector's letter~~.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue)
with Collector's letter.