

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	576	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	21-4-	19/869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3
Chamber of Commerce
Madras 4th March 1869

From,

A. J. Byard Esq^r
Chairman Chamber of Commerce

To,

The Honble W. S. Ellis C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

On the 6th April last year,
my predecessor had the honor of addressing
you on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce
~~with reference to the proposed erection~~
of a new General Post Office in that
part of Madras known as John Street,
and on the 7th May, the Government
in their Proceedings, Public Department
placed on record their opinion that
"there seems no reason to fear that any
inconvenience will be experienced by the
community or the inhabi-
tants of Madras" ~~in consequence of the~~
removal of the General Post Office.
The Chamber though very far from
sharing in this opinion, would have
been content, however reluctantly,

opinion of the proper site for the Salem
Office ~~is~~ precisely the same as those
expressed by the Chamber last April
with regard to the proper site for the Madras
Office, and they fail to see why the
arguments that have prevailed with the

~~Chamber~~ with regard to the relative
importance of the two towns, still more
apply in the latter. The locality
known as John Periras though entire-
ly situated in a merely geographical
sense, is at a considerable distance from
the town proper, and the selection of it
for the General Post Office would certainly
prove exceedingly inconvenient to the
mercantile community generally and
delay business. A Branch Office in
Topham's Broadway will only in a small
degree diminish such inconvenience, for
it will be a Receiving not a Delivery Office,
and its time for closing the Mails must
allow of their carriage to the General
Post Office in ample time to allow
of their being there sorted and packed.
And, as was pointed out by the Chamber
in their former letter, sea-borne mails
arriving from the Northern and Southern

5
Ports, Calcutta, Rangoon, Ceylon, China,
the Straits, Australia, and elsewhere, will
have to be conveyed from the Pier, past
the doors of the Merchants' offices to a
Post Office, at least one and a half
~~miles distant~~ and
thence to be brought back for delivery.

If the Government will admit
that next to official correspondence
that of the trading classes is the most
important, and if it be kept in mind
that the Port is equi-distant from John
Periras and Topham's Broadway
~~while many of the Public Offices are closer~~
to the latter, the claims of official corre-
spondence do not appear to be much if
at all affected by the present question,
and it must be allowed that the conveni-
ence of mercantile correspondence merits
peculiar attention in the selection of a
site for the General Post Office.

For the reasons now submitted the
~~Chamber are of opinion~~ that the proposed
intention of placing the Chief Post Office
near the new Railway Station will if
carried out prove of great and permanent
inconvenience to the Mercantile community.

and the majority of the general public;
and therefore knowing their own wants
and feeling the necessity for the most
expeditions postal arrangements that
are practicable, direct ^{me} ~~the~~ respectfully
to solicit the Government to take
their views once more into consideration
and to extend to Madras the application
of the same principle which deterred
the Government from sanctioning
the proposed Post Office at Coora-
mangalam.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. J. Byard

Chairman

Public Works Dept

San

Chairman of the
Committee of Finance

103 Street

No 300

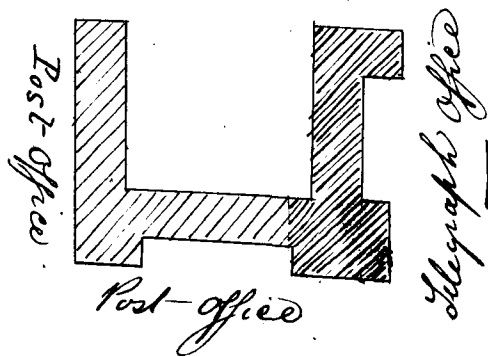
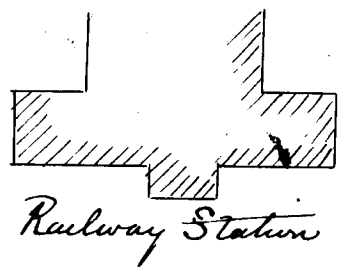
your protest against
removal of the General
Office from Newark
to San Francisco

W. J.

916.466
R 20 ..

1095-

devised, and now that the site of the Post Office has been altered, I should not hesitate to modify the design - I would therefore respectfully suggest ² that the Original design of the Post Office Elevation, face the general Hospital, and that an Elevation almost similar, face the East - all the Offices on the East wing now belonging to the Post Office I would remove to the west side. The Offices belonging to the Post Office would then occupy the South and west wings of the building, and the Telegraph Office would form a separate wing facing the East.



The two suites of Offices may be ³ made quite distinct and at the same time be in convenient juxtaposition. The Architectural Effect of such a Group would be very fine, and I fear without some such expedient the

N^o 204

From

R. F. Chisholm Esqr

Architect Madras

To

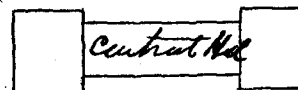
Col. Charles A. Orr R. E.

Secretary to Govt P. W. D.

Madras 13th February 1869

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Order N^o 446 dated the 11th February directing me to prepare plans for the Government Telegraphic Office at Madras. May I beg leave to suggest that it would be both economical and advantageous if this building could form a wing of the New Post Office. In the sanctioned plan of the post Office the central Hall divides the minor Offices into two groups,



This arrangement is not the most convenient that could be

Transferred to the Public Department with reference to the undermentioned orders.

N^o 232. dated 2nd March 1865. Public

Dept.

" 570 - " - 29th May 1865 - Do -

" 562. " - 7th - 1868 - Do.

" 446 - " - 11th Feb 1869 - Do. No. 10 Sept 1869

For. of. George }
22nd Feb 1869 }

To Mr. M. S. S. S. S.

Secretary to Govt P. W. D.

N^o 321

From

R. F. Chisholm Esq^r

Architect Madras.

To

Col. Charles A. Barr R. E.

Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Madras 20th March 1869.

Sir

I have the honor to submit in compliance
with G. O. N^o 446 dated the 11th February 1869
Sketch plans for the proposed New Telegraph
Office at Madras.

2 I met Mr Bailey at the request of
Col Robinson and learnt from the former
Gentleman that there would be very serious
objection to the proposal made in my letter
N^o 304 dated the 13th February 1869 to place the
Telegraph Office next the Post Office and
that the Revenue derived from the former
was in the inverse ratio of the distance of the
Office from the centre of business. In order
to avoid delay I submit the enclosed plans
intended to be erected on the beach.

From Mr Bailey I learnt also the requirements of the Madras Office and the general routines of business.

The points I have kept in view while designing these sketches are,

- 1 The entire separation of each department.
- 2 The rapid and easy communication between all parts of the building by lifts and tubes.
- 3 The avoidance of all Longitudinal partings which would obstruct the sea breeze.

The Public would be admitted on the North and East sides next to Black town and they would never be able, except through private doors, to gain access to any other part of the building.

The 6. Receiving clerks stationed behind the counter would communicate with the Master only by speaking tubes and each clerk would have his lift for sending messages to the signal room. The incoming messages would be sent down by lifts also to the despatching clerks. A staircase is provided for communication in cases of Emergency but under ordinary circumstances the upper door might be locked.

All the other portions of the plan speak for themselves and require no explanation.

The following list shows the number and dimensions of the several Rooms.

Ground Floor.

Receiving room.	50 X 30
Despatching room	20 X 12
Stores	40 X 28
Refreshment room.	36 X 18
Superintendent's Office	18 X 15
" Clerk	20 X 18
Printing Room	35 X 14
Head printer	19 X 14

First floor

Signal Room

50 X 30

576

" " "	18 X 15
" " "	18 X 15
Lavatory.	20 X 15
Superintendents Quarters	
Dining Room	18 X 18
Dinning Room -	14 X 16
Bed Room	25 X 14
" "	19 X 14

The cost of the building will be about
Rupees 9000/-

I have the honor to be

Referred to the Public Re-
freshment in continuation of the endorse-
ment from the Office of the 22^d February 1869,
and with reference of S. 12446 dated
11th June.

Wm. A. R.

Feb. 1869.

I have the honor to be

Very truly Yrs. Wm. A. R.

23^d March 1869

To the Public Refr.
with a View.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st April 1869.

Read the following papers:—

No. 194. From the Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 4th March 1869.

On the 6th April last year, my predecessor had the honor of addressing you, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, with reference to the proposed erection of a new General Post-office in that part of Madras, known as John Pereiras, and on the 7th May, the Government in their Proceedings, Public Department, placed on record their opinion that "there seems no reason to fear that any inconvenience will be experienced by the mercantile community, or the inhabitants of Black Town, by the proposed removal of the General Post-office." The Chamber, though very far from sharing in this opinion, would have been content, however reluctantly, to defer to the decision of the Government without further remarks were it not that an analogous case at Salem has been disposed of, so much in accordance with the views of the Chamber as expressed by my predecessor that I have been desired to urge upon Government the re-consideration of the grounds on which the mercantile community base their argument for the retention of the General Post-office in Black Town in the heart of the trading interests, and in close proximity to the most densely-inhabited portions of the Presidency Capital.

It seems that the Postmaster General proposed to build the new Post-office for Salem, not in Salem town proper, but at the Railway station at Sooramungalum, about three-and-a half miles distant from the town. The Collector of the district remonstrated against this, pointed out the comparative insignificance of Sooramungalum, that the great bulk of the postal business is with Salem town; and that it is unprecedented to leave the head station of a district without a Post-office. The Postmaster General defended his opinion by reminding the Collector that, "When the Chamber of Commerce lately protested against the design of building the new Madras Post-office at the Railway station on precisely the same grounds on which you object to a similar measure at Salem, the Government overruled their protest on the ground that the Receiving House, which was to be opened on the beach, would afford ample facilities and security for the correspondence of the mercantile community of Madras." The matter was then referred by the Collector to the Government, who "had no hesitation in deciding that the proper place for the new Post-office is Salem, but they will be prepared to sanction the construction of a Receiving Office at the Railway station."

The Chamber cannot but agree with the Postmaster General in regarding the grounds of the Collector's opinion of the proper site for the Salem office as precisely the same as those expressed by the Chamber last April with regard to the proper site for the Madras Office, and they fail to see why the arguments that have prevailed with the Government in the former case do not equally, or, with regard to the relative importance of the two towns, still more apply in the latter. The locality known as John Pereiras, though centrically situated in a merely geographical sense, is at a considerable distance from the town proper, and the selection of it for the General Post-office would certainly prove exceedingly inconvenient to the mercantile community generally, and delay business. A branch office in Popham's

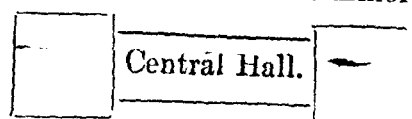
Broadway will only, in a small degree, diminish such inconvenience, for it will be a Receiving, not a Delivery, Office, and its time for closing the mails must allow of their carriage to the General Post-office in ample time to allow of their being there sorted and packed; and, as was pointed out by the Chamber in their former letter, sea-borne mails arriving from the Northern and Southern ports, Calcutta, Burmah, Ceylon, China, the Straits, Australia, and elsewhere, "will have to be conveyed from the pier, pass the doors of the merchants' offices to a Post-office, at least one-and-a-half miles distant, there to be sorted and thence to be brought back for delivery."

If the Government will admit that, next to official correspondence, that of the trading classes is the most important, and if it be kept in mind that the Fort is equi-distant from John Pereiras and Popham's Broadway, while many of the public offices are closed to the latter, the claims of official correspondence do not appear to be much if at all affected by the present question, and it must be allowed that the convenience of mercantile correspondence merits peculiar attention in the selection of a site for the General Post-office.

For the reasons now submitted the Chamber are of opinion that the proposed intention of placing the Chief Post-office, near the new Railway station will, if carried out, prove of great and permanent inconvenience to the mercantile community, and the majority of the general public, and therefore knowing their own wants, and feeling the necessity for the most expeditious postal arrangements that are practicable, direct me respectfully to solicit the Government to take their views once more into consideration, and to extend to Madras the application of the same principle which deterred the Government from sanctioning the proposed Post-office at Sooramungalum.

No. 195. From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Architect, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 13th February 1869, No. 304.

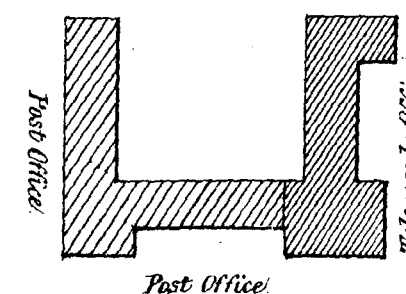
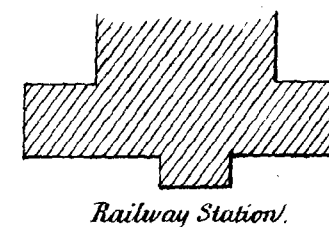
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Order, No. 446, dated the 11th February, directing me to prepare plans for the Government Telegraphic Office at Madras. May I beg leave to suggest that it would be both economical and advantageous if this building could form a wing of the new Post-office. In the sanctioned plan of the Post-office the central hall divides the minor offices in two groups:—



This arrangement is not the most convenient that could be devised, and now that the site of the Post-office has been altered, I should not hesitate to modify the design.

2. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that the original design of the Post-office elevation face the General Hospital, and that an elevation almost similar face the east. All the offices on the east wing now belonging to the Post-office I would remove to the west side. The offices belonging to the Post-office would then

occupy the south and west wings of the building, and the Telegraph Office would form a separate wing facing the east:—



3. The two suites of offices may be made quite distinct, and at the same time be in convenient juxtaposition. The architectural effect of such a group would be very fine, and I fear without some such expedient the Post-office will lose in dignity when compared with the Railway station.

Transferred to the Public Department, with reference to the undermentioned orders:—

No. 232, dated 2nd March 1865, Public Department.

„ 570, „ 29th May „ do.

„ 562, „ 7th „ 1868, do.

„ 446, „ 11th Feb. 1869, Public Works Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
22nd February 1869.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secy. to Govt., P. W. D.

No. 196. From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Architect, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 20th March 1869, No. 321.

I have the honor to submit in compliance with G. O., No. 446, dated the 11th February 1869, sketch-plans for the proposed new Telegraph Office at Madras.

2. I met Mr. Bailey at the request of Colonel Robinson, and learnt from the former gentleman that there would be very serious objection to the proposal made in my letter, No. 304, dated the 13th February 1869, to place the Telegraph Office next the Post-office, and that the revenue derived from the former was in the inverse ratio of the distance of the office from the centre of business. In order to avoid delay I submit the enclosed plans intended to be erected on the beach.

From Mr. Bailey I learnt also the requirements of the Madras Office, and the general routine of business.

The points I have kept in view while designing these sketches are—

(1.) The entire separation of each department.

(2.) The rapid and easy communication between all parts of the building by lifts and tubes.

(3.) The avoidance of all longitudinal partings which would obstruct the sea breeze.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st April 1869.*

The public would be admitted on the north and east sides next to Black Town, and they would never be able, except through private doors, to gain access to any other part of the building.

The six Receiving Clerks stationed behind the counter would communicate with the master only by speaking tubes, and each clerk would have his lift for sending messages to the signal room. The in-coming messages would be sent down by lifts also to the three Despatching Clerks. A staircase is provided for communication in cases of emergency, but under ordinary circumstances, the upper door might be locked.

All the other portions of the plan speak for themselves, and require no explanation.

The following list shows the number and dimensions of the several rooms :—

Ground floor.

Receiving Room.....	50 × 30
Despatching Room.....	20 × 12
Stores.....	40 × 28
Tiffin Room.....	36 × 18
Superintendent's Office.....	18 × 15
" Clerks.....	20 × 18
Printing Room.....	35 × 14
Head Printer.....	19 × 14

First floor.

Signal Room.....	50 × 30
Batteries and Lavatory.....	24 × 20
Library.....	25 × 18
Dining Hall.....	36 × 18
Maty's Room.....	18 × 10

Assistant Superintendent's quarters.

Dining Room.....	18 × 18
Sitting Room.....	14 × 16
Bed Room.....	20 × 15
" ".....	20 × 14

Upper story.

Dormitory.....	50 × 30
Telegraph Master's Bed Room.....	18 × 15
" " ".....	18 × 15
" " ".....	18 × 15
Lavatory.....	20 × 15

Superintendent's quarters.

Dining Room.....	18 × 18
Drawing Room.....	14 × 16
Bed Room.....	25 × 14
" ".....	19 × 14

The cost of the building will be about Rupees 90,000.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st April 1869.*

5

Referred to the Public Department in continuation of the endorsement from this office of the 22nd February 1869, and with reference to G. O., No. 446, dated 11th idem.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E,
Secretary to Govt., P. W. D.

23rd March 1869.

No. 197. ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1869, No. 516.

With reference to the letter from the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce above recorded, His Excellency the Governor in Council sees no sufficient reason for reconsidering the decision passed by the Government in their Order of the 7th May 1868, No. 562, in regard to the site of the new Post-office.

2. There is, however, reason to believe that it will be more conducive to the convenience of that portion of the public which makes most use of the Telegraph, that the new Telegraph Office should be built on the 1st Line Beach, instead of being attached, as originally contemplated, to the new General Post-office. A suitable site will accordingly be selected for the Telegraph Office on the Beach.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce.
" Postmaster General.
" Public Works Department, with a plan.
" Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.

Edw. J. Wright.

PUBLIC.

To

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MADRAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
Esq., Esq., Esq.

Dated April, 21st.
Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 21st April 1869, No. 516.

APRIL.
Nos. 194-197.

Adhering to the decision to erect the new
General Post-office at John Pereira's, but ordering
the selection of a site for the new Telegraph Office,
in the 1st Line Beach.

Pro. 2^d March 1865 No. 305.
- 29th May - 130-131-
- 7th July 1865 - 32-33.
R. W. No. 11 - July 1869 - 298-299.

~~17/1869~~ Dept
Telegraphs No. 304
From. *W. 591.*
R. L. Chisholm Esq.
Architect Madrid

Pro. 21st April 189

To

Col. Charles A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Govt P.W.D.

Dated 13th February 1869

Received 15th "
Recd 23rd -

No 11

Regarding New
Telegraphic Office
at Lund.

Revised

C16. 4/2
R20

1894

Post Office will lose in dignity when
compared with the Railway stations

I have the honor to be
Sir

most Obedt & servt.

Wm. L. L. L.
Hedden

Galleries & Lavatory	24 x 20
Library	25 x 18
Dining Hall	26 x 18
Male Room	8 x 10
Assistant Superintendents Quarters	
Sleeping Room	18 x 12
Sitting Room	14 x 16
Bed Room	20 x 15
" "	20 x 15

Upper Storey

Sanitary	30 x 20
Telegraph and Bed room	12 x 14

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

2 From Mr. R. L. Chickden Architect presented 13th Feb, 1894
+ Chairman, Chamber of Commerce ——— + 1st March 1894
3 Mr. R. L. Chickden Architect ——— 22nd March 1894

Order thereon 21st April 1869 6576

With reference
to the letter from the
Chairman of the Chamber
of Commerce above
recorded, His Excellency
the Governor in Council
see no sufficient reason
for reconsidering the
decision passed by the
Government in their Order
of the 7th May 1868 No 562.

2. There is, however, reason to believe that it will be more cond...

* in regard to the
 title of the new
 Post office.

to the convenience of that
portion of the Public which
makes most use of the
Telegraph, that the new
Telegraph Office should
be built on the 1st line
Beach, instead of being
attached, as originally
contemplated, to the new
General Post Office -
A suitable site will
accordingly be selected
for the Telegraph Office
on the Beach.

To The Chairman of the London
Chamber of Commerce.

"Public Works Department
"Superintendent of Telegraphs
"London

3/11/80

15-22

Gov. of 1867 and 1868.

Adelle

Th. Hammar, Katar, Danker
Hannover
für

Dated 21 April 1869 No 572
Recd.

Nos. 194-197

Ad. Lewis to the directors of
and the conference of
the 18th of June 1881
but not having the selection
of a site for the new site.
- George Lewis, on the
18th of June 1881
some of the