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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 126 Press

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Dated 21. 6. 1872 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 88. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Trichinopoly, 31st August 1872, No. 45:—

With reference to G. O., No. 1807, dated 6th December 1871, I have the honour to submit a description of the buildings known as the Nàwab's Palace and improvements proposed by Mr. Chisholm to convert part of them into offices and other public buildings.

2. I enclose, also, copy of a letter from the Civil Judge, No. 334, dated 23rd instant, from which it will be seen that the erection of a suitable Munsif's Court is very desirable, even though it may not be considered certain that an additional Munsif will be required.

3. The total cost of the buildings to be acquired by Government has been settled by the Head Sheristadar (then acting as Special Deputy Collector) at Rupees 13,530 (*vide* his letter, No. 8, dated 2nd March last, copy enclosed). Mr. Chisholm roughly estimated the proposed improvements and additions at Rupees 21,300, so that the total cost will be Rupees 34,830, or, say, Rupees 35,000. The Municipal Commissioners, in Proceedings* dated 2nd May last, have agreed to take the central hall for an office, and the building to be used as a cloth bazaar, so that Rupees 3,850 (and the value to be placed hereafter on the cloth bazaar, perhaps about Rupees 500,) will be debitable to them, and for the remainder (about Rupees 30,000) Government will obtain suitable offices for a District Munsif, a Tahsildar, a Sub-Magistrate, a Registrar, and also a Subsidiary Jail, a Post Office, and a Police Station. Mr. Davidson shows clearly that a Munsif's Court so situated would be a great convenience, and, if the permanent Court were transferred to the palace, the building at present occupied by the Munsif might be rented out. As to the places at present occupied as offices by the Tahsildar and Town Sub-Magistrate they are utterly unsuitable, and have always been condemned. I should be glad to see them vacated as soon as possible.

* Copy enclosed.

4. The reasons assigned by the Municipal Commissioners for refusing to locate the proposed dispensary in the upper part of the building appear to me to be satisfactory, and they have already addressed Government on the subject of building a new dispensary in a better situation.

From R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Civil Judge of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated Trichinopoly, 23rd August 1872, No. 334.

I have the honour to inform you that I have been in communication with the Trichinopoly District Munsif on the subject of your letter, No. 15, of the 9th instant, and I think with him that, having regard to the increasing number of suits that are annually being filed in his Court, there is every probability that he will require the assistance of an additional Munsif from time to time, and I am of opinion, therefore, that suitable provision should be made for such a contingency when the contemplated alterations in the Mahal are being effected.

2. Should the accommodation which it is proposed to provide in the Mahal for an additional Munsif be as commodious as that in the premises where the District Munsif now holds his Court, I am disposed to think that the permanent Court might be transferred there with advantage, as,

from the central position which it would occupy in the very heart of the town, the location of the Court there would, I imagine, be a great boon alike to the suitors and Court employés, and the present Court-house might be utilized as an additional Munsif's Court when required.

From the Officiating Deputy Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated Trichinopoly, 2nd March 1872, No. 8.

In obedience to your personal directions to negotiate for the purchase of the old palace buildings and the site in front of the whole compound, I beg to inform you that I have settled with the present owners of the buildings and the site the prices at which they are to sell away the buildings to Government and the Municipality.

2. Mr. Dale put these buildings up to public auction after dividing them into twelve lots, of which there now exist but seven lots, six in buildings and one in mere site, the rest, which were vacant grounds, have of late been laid out into house-sites and converted into two neat little streets towards the northern side of the palace compound. The first lot, which formed a portion or a continuation in front of lot No. 2, was purchased some four or five years ago by the Government, and knocked down in view to straighten and widen the road in front of the palace.

3. Lots Nos. 2 and 3 were originally purchased for Rupees 725, and the owners had to knock down a portion of them at the orders of the Municipality. The Marungapuri Zemindar offered, it appears, Rupees 2,000 for both the lots some four years ago, but without success, and they have been twice or thrice put up to auction in the Civil Court consequent upon disputes between the parties that owned them jointly. Lot No. 2 and three-fifths of lot No. 3 are now owned by one Patchyappah Moodelliar, and he wanted Rupees 4,000 at first, and has after all agreed to sell the lot No. 2 and his interests in lot No. 3 for Rupees 2,000, although with great reluctance. The owner, or rather the man that claimed two-fifths of lot No. 3 under a Civil Court sale certificate, has agreed to sell away his interests therein for Rupees 150.

4. Lot No. 7, *i. e.*, Mangammal Audience Hall, which His Lordship admired so much during his visits here, was lately purchased by one Anandaroya Moodelliar for Rupees 1,000, and, as the approach to the lot runs across his garden splitting it in two, he wanted to reserve that pathway to himself in view to adding it to his garden, and, as I learnt that he carried away some polished stones from a portion of the building, I reduced the value by Rupees 150, and the man has agreed to sell it away for Rupees 850.

5. Lots Nos. 4, 5, and 6 are owned by one Swami Pillay; they were purchased for Rupees 3,000 at Mr. Dale's sale, and he says he has laid out Rupees 8,000 to improve them, and it was not without some difficulty that this man was brought to terms as you are yourself aware from my reports to you personally, and he has after all agreed to take Rupees 8,600 for all these three lots. This very same individual owns the lot No. 12, which consists of the whole site within the compound, and he purchased it for Rupees 1,740 in an auction in the Civil Court. He wanted twelve per cent. interest for fifteen months upon this amount and profit besides, and after much wrangling and explanation on both sides he has agreed to take six per cent. interest and Rupees 50 being the amount paid by him for the sale certificate he obtained in the Civil Court, all of which come up to Rupees 1,930.

6. I have thus closed the bargain with all the owners of the old palace buildings and site as they now exist, and have taken muchilkas from every one of them, making the settlement of price binding upon them, and these muchilkas I send herein enclosed. The value of all the lots come up to Rupees 13,530.

7. Both Patchyappah Moodelliar and Swami Pillay seem to think that I had been hard with them in the bargain, and I would suggest a further compensation of Rupees 100 to each of them, if you see no objection thereto.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Trichinopoly, at a Meeting held on the 2nd May 1872.

* * * *

IX. Read G. O., No. 1807, dated 6th December last, communicating, with certain instructions, a Minute by His Excellency the Governor regarding the Nàwab's Palace.

Resolution.—The Commissioners have given the proposal to convert part of the old Nàwab's Palace into a dispensary their most careful consideration, and are unable to recommend the project.

The palace is situated in the heart of the most densely-inhabited portion of the town, and the Commissioners, while acknowledging that the central situation of the building would be advantageous as being within easy reach of all, are of opinion that this is the only point in its favour.

The building is situated in close proximity to those streets where cholera, when it does visit Trichinopoly, almost invariably breaks out. It is also in the vicinity of the rock, the refraction of heat from which during the greater part of the day would, the Commissioners believe, be highly prejudicial to the patients. With reference to the building itself, the Commissioners are of opinion that it is unsuited for conversion into a dispensary.

The lower rooms are dark and ill-ventilated, and could not be improved so as to be of any use whatever for the reception of patients.

The upper rooms could, however, be rendered habitable, but would still be only partially suitable for the object proposed, and would not give sufficient accommodation.

The Commissioners are also of opinion that it would be objectionable to have wards to which persons suffering from accidents and serious illness are taken on the upper story. The proposed location of numerous public offices in the immediate vicinity of the building would also, the Commissioners consider, be objectionable, as being injurious to the comfort and health of the patients.

For the foregoing reason the Commissioners are averse to the proposal to convert the building into a dispensary, and consider that the site originally selected between the market and the District Jail infinitely preferable in a sanitary point of view, while it is but slightly less central than the site of the Nàwab's Palace.

The Commissioners are of opinion that building No. 2 will make an excellent cloth bazaar, and that the circular hall can be converted into a good Municipal Office, and are prepared to purchase them for the purpose indicated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. SAGE,
Vice-President.

From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated Madras, 10th July 1872, No. 98.

In compliance with the request contained in your letter, No. 78, dated the 5th instant, I have the honour to lay before you the following report on the subject of converting portions of the old palace at Trichinopoly into Municipal and Government Offices.

2. The group of buildings known as the old palace differs little from the plan. I now forward drawing No. 1, which was executed since three years back. Like most Indian buildings of this kind, constructive operations seem to have been continued without interruption since its commencement; a closer inspection, however, reveals the fact of three or four periods (if I may be allowed to use the term); first, the older domical structures marked A, B, and C, and probably D, the original floors of which are 3—6 below the existing surface of the ground; secondly, the waggon-vaulted buildings which are nearly level with the existing surface; thirdly, a more recent series around the courtyard marked E; and, fourthly, the structures with terraced roofs. The only parts possessing architectural merit are the older groups, and these are scarcely worth preserving on that account only. They are fair specimens of the mixed style so prevalent in this part of the country, and are altogether more substantial than the more recent portions. As

buildings capable of being converted into useful structures, however, they will amply repay expenditure freely treated. I believe they will make better Courts of law and public offices than any buildings I have yet seen in the country.

3. By referring to plan No. 2 you will observe that I propose to clear off all those recent works which contain a great deal of wood in their construction; although so lately built these structures already show signs of distress, and I consider them unstable; they are so badly planned that I doubt if they could be satisfactorily turned to account, and if retained nearly the whole of the wood-work would have to be renewed at a considerable outlay.

4. As soon as the debris and walls are cleared away, and each group of building opened out, it will be necessary to excavate the whole of the adjacent ground of the northern portion to the depth of about four feet, or about nine inches below the original floors, and I have indicated by steps where it will be necessary to rise to the level of the comparatively speaking more recent works.

5. I would make a gentle slope from the roadway as far as the point marked F, and from thence I would keep the roadway level. The slope thus formed by the low road and high ground might be prettily laid out in flower-beds.

6. Although externally the mass is too low to be dignified, a little judicious treatment of the two principal facades would render it extremely pleasing and picturesque. The Municipal Office, as the principal structure, could be accentuated by two small spirals, and other breaks in the shyline would suggest themselves as the alterations were carried forward. I enclose a rough sketch of this.

7. All the vaulted rooms must be properly ventilated, and the high surrounding walls removed to admit a free current of air throughout each Court.

8. The accompanying plan shows fully both the extent and character of the accommodation to be provided. The cost of the several works I would roughly estimate as follows:—

	Rs.
Munsif's Court	9,000
Taluq Cutcherry and Subsidiary Jail	6,000
Registrar's Office	500
Do. do. of births and deaths	800
Post Office	2,000
Cloth Market	3,000
Total ...	21,300

9. As the Municipal Office is to be commenced at once, I have taken the liberty of appending a brief specification of the work and a rough pencil sketch showing the treatment I would recommend on the principal facade.

NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICE, TRICHINOPOLY.

Specification.

Excavation.—Excavate and remove all the earth around the structure marked G, H, and J, to the dotted line marked F, and to the depth of four feet below the general surface of the ground. From this line excavate the earth to a slope of 7 to 1 until the existing surface is joined. Excavate and remove the earth from the interior of the hall to the old terrace floor about 3—3 below the existing floor.

Day Labourer.—Dismantle and remove to a convenient site the remains of the building and bounding wall to the west of large hall.

Dismantle and remove the roof of the passage KL of the hall.

Dismantle and remove the square and spiral staircases at the north-east corner; dismantle and remove the high wall marked MN on the roofs and all unnecessary high parapet walls.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th October 1872.

Break through carefully all walls where doors and windows are to be inserted.

After completion of the whole of the other works remove all plant, materials, and implements used during construction, and deliver the whole up in a clear and workmanlike condition.

Bricklayers.—Form and construct two spirals according to the detailed drawings to be hereafter furnished; make good all defects caused by the day labourers or carpenters. Build up openings neatly where directed.

After the carpenters have completed their work construct a Hindoo cornice in the usual manner of tiles plastered.

Carpenters.—Frame and fix No. 5 large windows in lower front according to the detailed drawings to be hereafter furnished.

Frame and fix No. 7 glass windows for the upper portion.

Frame and fix No. 6 windows on the north, and six on the south in the galleries. Frame and fix doors and windows in all openings left by bricklayers for their reception.

Plasterers.—Scratch, coat the whole of the interior where the plaster is good, and remove entirely where the plaster is bad.

Lay a good coat of rough cast on all exposed surfaces of brick and render up to the old surface of the old work.

Make good all defects in old mouldings.

Fine plaster all flat surfaces; a light buff tent made of the following materials:—

Lime,
Yellow ochre,
Red ochre,
Black,

cornices, jambs, and soffits; fine plaster in pure white the columns, capitals, and bases.

Re-plaster the whole of the roofing in white chunam. Insert and gild the finals on the domes.

Terracer.—Lay a floor of nine square tiles gauged and rubbed and set in mortar.

Road-maker.—Spread six of broken brick rubbish all on the surface to be made into road, and well ram and consolidate with heavy beaters.

Spread six of good metal and well roll, and consolidate.

Note.—The exterior of the building can only be specified from detailed drawings; but the above notes will convey a very good idea of the restoration works necessary.

(Signed) R. F. CHISHOLM,
Consulting Architect to Government.

No. 89. Order thereon, 8th October 1872, No. 1363.

With reference to G. O., dated 6th December 1871, the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly reports that the Government can obtain, for the sum of Rupees 13,530, the block of buildings known as the Nàwab's Palace at Trichinopoly for conversion into much-needed public buildings, and that the cost of conversion is roughly estimated by the Consulting Architect at Rupees 21,300, making a total estimated cost of about Rupees 35,000, of which the Municipality will provide about Rupees 4,350 for the portion to be converted into a Municipal Office and a cloth market, leaving about Rupees 30,650 as the net cost to Government of providing Offices for the Tahsildar, Deputy Munsif, Sub-Magistrate, Registrar, Police, and Postal Departments.

2. The question of providing a Subsidiary Jail for the taluq will be disposed of separately. For the rest the Governor in Council approves of the purchase and

conversion of the buildings in the manner proposed, and resolves to place a sum of Rupees 14,000 from the Provincial balance at the disposal of the Collector for the completion of the purchase, and to direct that the Consulting Architect be instructed in the Department of Public Works to prepare the necessary detailed plans and estimates for the conversion of the several blocks into public offices, which the Government desire to see carried out as speedily as possible.

3. A further allotment of funds will be made for the purpose when required.

4. The Collector will in due course report as to the best manner of disposing of the condemned buildings at present occupied by the departments which it is proposed to lodge in the palace when ready.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department, with two plans.
" Revenue Department.
" Judicial "
" Postmaster-General.
" President of the Municipal Commission, Trichinopoly.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 3392

Rev. Dept.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF TRICHINOPOLY,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October, 8th.

Recd. " 19 " Encl.

G. O., 8th October 1872, *No.* 1363.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 88-89.

Issuing orders for the purchase and conversion of the block of buildings known as the Nawab's Palace at Trichinopoly in the manner proposed by the Acting Collector. No. 120.

Rev. 21 Oct. 72