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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2172	Press.
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Dated	2. 7. 1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

2nd July 1877, No. 2,172.

Read the following paper :—

No. 5. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1877, No. 2,275.

Read the following letter from R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 27th April 1877, No. 973 :—

Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 1,326, dated 4th September 1875.
Proceedings Board of Revenue, No. 2,449, dated 27th September 1876.

North Arcot.	Tinnevely.
Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.
Kistna.	Nilgiris.
Madura.	Malabar.
South Canara.	Salem.

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, I have the honor to state that the Collectors of the districts mentioned in the margin have replied to the Board's requisition, dated the 27th of September 1876, No. 2,449. I have tabulated the information thus obtained in the statement now submitted.

room of every cutcherry. The figures in red indicate that the local officer considers the room inadequate in point of size. At the foot of the statement will be found in red ink the average superficial area of each room; 2ndly, entered in black ink the average area of each rejecting the red figures in the body of the statement; and, 3rdly, in blue ink the accommodation provided in the plan lettered A and circulated* by the Board for remarks. In the latter I find I have misnamed two rooms ("Cashkeeper" and "Book-binder" should have been respectively "Treasury Deputy Collector" and "Blank Forms Store"), and that I have provided the following unnecessary rooms ;—

- (1.) Magistrate's Court.
- (2.) Vakil's room.
- (3.) Head Compositor's room.

In dealing with areas I shall omit those rooms.

Revised Design B.—I submit also a new design, Plan B, in which I have embodied the ideas of the several Collectors as far as I can interpret them.

Sub-Division of Statement.—On examining the statement you will observe that the sub-divisions are not to be depended on. A Sheristadar, for instance, may work with one or two Clerks in his room, or he may work alone, invariably the former. I should think, or an officer, could scarcely say that a room containing 875 superficial feet is insufficient, while some leading mercantile men in Madras work in rooms containing less than 225 superficial feet. The room I am sitting in contains 720 superficial feet and eight of us work in it, four being Draughtsmen who require large tables. In the absence of information of this kind, which might easily have been supplied in the column for remarks, the statement loses much of its value.

Variable quantity.—The most important fact to be gleaned from the table is that a Collector's Cutcherry by no means embodies a constant quantity but varies with every locality. Any design therefore can only be *standard* so far as the constants go.

Accommodation in Plan B.—In the plan I now submit I have provided for the following:—

- (1.) Collector and one Assistant.
- (2.) Treasury Department.
- (3.) Correspondence Department.

On either side I have indicated wings which will contain rooms suitable for various localities, the cross section of such rooms being similar to that of the lower storey of the main building.

Records.—These I propose placing in four turrets instead of one as in the original plan. The height to which the turrets should be carried will depend upon the quantity of records to be stored. I solicited the Collectors to give me the superficial area of racks, but only three gentlemen have apparently complied with the request. These show an average of 2,026 superficial feet for all records. The placing of records on racks in ordinary rooms is a most extravagant method of providing for their accommodation and should be discontinued. Records properly arranged should occupy the whole space from floor to ceiling, the light should be good, the classification simple, and every document within easy reach without the aid of steps or ladders. A turret with galleries 7 feet apart supplies all these desiderata, and offers a large wall space at a moderate cost. The turrets shown on Plan B if only 40 feet high will each afford a superficial area of rack accommodation of 2,000 feet, total 8,000 superficial feet.

Treasury and Correspondence Department.—Instead of allotting separate rooms, I have provided one large room to be sub-divided by each local officer according to his taste. The Sheristadar, on the one hand, will have an uninterrupted view

statement, we find that, in the opinion of the local officers, a building of 12,147 is insufficient for a first-class collectorate building, while a total of 13,345 (black figures) is more than sufficient. The small difference between these two totals is mainly due to the disproportionate size of the rooms, and shows that the red total is not to be depended upon. Omitting the rooms scored out on Plan A and the "tiffin-rooms" in order to draw comparisons, the total superficial area provided on Plan A was 11,333, not the extravagant excess which the plan was supposed to contain! Again, if we add 3,250 superficial feet to Plan B for Press and Registration, this plan will represent in total 11,778 superficial feet. The superficial area laid down by Mr. Wedderburn is slightly in excess of this provision, amounting to 12,600 superficial feet, exclusive of record space. It follows from these statements that 11,000 superficial feet or 12,000 at the outside is ample provision for a 1st class Collector's Cutcherry. If the plan which Mr. VansAgnew mentions as calculated to cost Rupees 52,000 contain this amount of accommodation, together with a proper proportion of shade, I very much fear the accuracy of the estimate.

General Remarks.—Having now complied with the Board's Orders I beg leave to make a few observations as to the principles involved in the two Plans A and B. The latter plan has been drawn out in deference to the wishes of the gentlemen who will eventually have to sit in these buildings, at the same time I cannot help expressing my opinion that their general views on light and ventilation do not appear to me to go far enough; perfect lighting can be secured without touching the subject of ventilation, nor is any amount of dead walling incompatible with the most perfect perfilation of air.

The barn form of building, a series of single rooms with verandahs as in Plan B, although securing the maximum of cool breeze, also secures a maximum of hot breeze, of glare, and of solar rays on the exterior walls, while the double building with a corridor intervening secures just as much air as the single building, and contains a much greater bulk of cool air, or air in shade; it presents a minimum surface to the action of the solar rays; and a minimum surface to the surrounding heated

atmosphere. The light is admitted on one side of the room only, avoiding cross lights and glare, and the central corridor forms a cool and convenient passage for administrative purposes. The new rooms in which the Members of the Board sit are designed on these principles, and so far as light and air are concerned I do not think a cooler or more desirable arrangement could be devised.

With regard to the question of single or double storeys I unhesitatingly give my opinion in favor of a double storey as in Plan A. The basement need never be more than 10 or 12 feet high containing the treasury and all meaner offices, while the upper floors should contain a much better class of rooms. It would no doubt be hard that the Deputy Collector in charge of the treasury should have an inferior class of room to the Sheristadar, but the hardship is not great, and the distinction less noticeable than if the Collector only had upstairs accommodation.

I think that all buildings in India, if the number of rooms justifies the arrangement, should be double structures of more than one storey.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Tabular Statement.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 and 3.—Plans.

OPINIONS differ so much as to the accommodation required and the form of building best suited for a Collector's Cutcherry that the idea of adopting a standard plan does not appear feasible; and as it is not in contemplation to erect any new Cutcherries of this description at present, and a decision is not immediately required, it may well be found preferable to vary the plan with reference to the locality instead of insisting upon uniformity; e.g., the arrangement of the rooms adopted in Plan A seems more suitable for an inland district, whilst Plan B would probably be preferred in a coast district.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1877, No. 2,172.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council agrees with the Board in considering that the matter does not require an immediate decision.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Received from the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1877.
 No. 2,275.
 The following letter from R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 27th April 1877, No. 973 :—
 Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 1,326, dated 4th September 1875.
 Proceedings Board of Revenue, No. 2,449, dated 27th September 1876.
 North Arcot. Tinnevely.
 Ganjam. Vizagapatam.
 Kistna. Nilgiris.
 Madras. Malabar.
 South Canara. Salem.
 Tabular Statement.—This tabular statement shows the accommodation in each room of every cutcherry. The figures in red indicate that the local officer considers the room inadequate in point of size. At the foot of the statement will be found in red ink the average superficial area of each room; 2ndly, entered in black ink in red ink the average superficial area of each room; 3rdly, in blue ink the accommodation provided in the plan lettered A and circulated* by the Board for remarks. In the latter I find I have misnamed two rooms ("Cashkeeper" and "Book-binder" should have been respectively "Treasury Deputy Collector" and "Blank Forms Store"), and that I have provided the following unnecessary rooms :—
 (1.) Magistrate's Court.
 (2.) Vakil's room.
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 In dealing with areas I shall omit these rooms.
 Revised Design B.—I submit also a new design, Plan B, in which I have embodied the ideas of the several Collectors as far as I can interpret them.
 Sub-Division of Statement.—On examining the statement you will observe that the sub-divisions are not to be depended on. A Sheristadar, for instance, may work with one or two Clerks in his room, or he may work alone, invariably the former I should think, or an officer, could scarcely say that a room containing 875 superficial feet is insufficient, while some leading mercantile men in Madras work in rooms containing less than 225 superficial feet. The room I am sitting in contains 720 superficial feet and eight of us work in it, four being Draughtsmen who require large tables. In the absence of information of this kind, which might easily have been supplied in the column for remarks, the statement loses much of its value.
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 Accommodation in Plan B.—In the plan I now submit I have provided for the following :—
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Treasury and Correspondence Department.—Instead of allotting separate rooms, I have provided one large room to be sub-divided by each local officer according to his taste. The Sheristadar, on the one hand, will have an uninterrupted view of his Vernacular clerks, and the Treasury Deputy Collector on the other, will have an uninterrupted view of his Accountants, his Shroffs, and his Treasury.

General comparison of Areas.—Adding up all the red figures in the tabular statement, we find that, in the opinion of all local officers, a total superficial area of 12,147 is insufficient for a first-class collectorate building, while a total of 13,345 (black figures) is more than sufficient. The small difference between these two totals is mainly due to the disproportionate size of the rooms, and shows that the red total is not to be depended upon. Omitting the rooms scored out on Plan A and the "tiffin-rooms" in order to draw comparisons, the total superficial area provided on Plan A was 11,333, not the extravagant excess which the plan was supposed to contain! Again, if we add 3,250 superficial feet to Plan B for Press and Registration, this plan will represent in total 11,778 superficial feet. The superficial area laid down by Mr. Wedderburn is slightly in excess of this provision, amounting to 12,600 superficial feet, exclusive of record space. It follows from these statements that 11,000 superficial feet or 12,000 at the outside is ample provision for a 1st class Collector's Cutcherry. If the plan which Mr. VansAgnew mentions as calculated to cost Rupees 52,000 contain this amount of accommodation, together with a proper proportion of shade, I very much fear the accuracy of the estimate.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Consulting Architect to Government.

*According to Government Revenue Department
with 3 Enclosures to be returned.*

Ed. W. J. Lewis.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

No. 2844

From Prov. Board of Revenue

Dated 17 May — 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Not aware of
call for such a
building and
24/6
certainly.

Someone may not
have a building being
built. Anticipated in
my time 4/6

Revenue Department

2844

1877.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 17th MAY 1877, No. 2,275.

24/6/77

Encl. 3. 2/6

Received 11/6 11th June

MAY.
No. 2,275.

Collector's Office. — Informing Consulting Architect to Government that the question of adopting a standard plan for a — may be allowed to lie over until the necessity for deciding upon some plan arises.

With order

C. 20. 1877. 1829/6/77

From order 21. 1877. 1829/6/77

The G. in C. agrees with the Board in considering that the matter does not require an immediate decision

21/2/77

N. 28415
FOR ORDERS.

Collector's Certificate

C. 20 June 77 R 29/6/77