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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2033	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1876.

No. 319. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th November 1876, No. 2,792:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. F. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Punganur, 5th October 1876, No. 471.

As the Board are aware, the Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore is located within the Fort at that place in a building which was formerly the Main Guard. The utter insuitability of this building for the purpose to which it is now applied, the use to which it could be most advantageously put, and the necessity of providing Vellore with a new Taluq Cutcherry were brought to notice by Mr. Wilkinson while Acting Sub-Collector of this district in his letter of the 13th May 1873, No. 47d. Copy of this letter was submitted to the Board by the then Acting Collector Mr. Sewell with his letter of the 20th June 1873, No. 352, in which he recommended the construction of a new Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore, and requested the Board to move Government to authorize the District Engineer to prepare a plan and estimate for the erection of such a building within the Fort of Vellore.

2. The Board thereupon in their official memorandum, dated 9th July 1873, No. 1,011, inquired whether accommodation for the Tahsildar's Office could not be provided at a small expense in some of the unused Mahals or Military buildings in the Fort.

3. Mr. Sewell, who had then never d to his appointment as Sub-Collector, reported thereupon that the Toomisoor Ma ich was then occupied by only one State prisoner, might with some alterati very easily converted into a Taluq Cutcherry, and recommended that the nite required for re-adapting it for the purpose, the cost of which the District En roughly estimated at Rupees 3,200, might be sanctioned. My letter reporting commendation having been submitted to Government by the Board with their dings, dated 25th September 1873, No. 1,169, the Government in their Order, th October 1873, No. 609, desired to be informed how the one State prisoner kept the Toomisoor Mahal was to be accommodated under the proposed arrangement. information having been furnished in my letter of the 5th November 1873, No. e Government in their Order, dated 22nd January 1874, No. 28, directed that omisoor Mahal should be altered and adapted for a Taluq Cutcherry. An estima mounting to Rupees 2,760 was prepared by Engineer, and was sanctioned by Governme ordinarily submitted by the District No. 2,300, communicated with the Board's their Order of the 22nd August 1874, Miscellaneous No. 6,189. edings, dated 14th September 1874.

4. While the necessary repairs were progress, the building was inspected by the Acting Sub-Collector Mr. Lister, who h ught to my notice that the rooms assigned for the Bistrict and for the Taluq Sheristad were extremely small and unsuited for the purpose, and that the Tahsildar, Shoristad, and Treasury would be all crowded up in an inconvenient, cramped space, and under these circumstances suggested that the Toomisoor Mahal should be altered and adapted for a Taluq Cutcherry. Mr. Lister's suggestions embodied in my letter of the 5th November 1873 were carried out as far as possible. Mr. Lis left the district, and was succeeded by Mr. Austin, to whom I referred the matter for opinion. Mr. Austin entirely approved of the re-arrangement, and suggested some further alterations. Agreeing with Messrs. Lister and Austin the advisability of the re-arrangements

proposed by them, I reported on the matter in my letter dated 17th February last, No. 68, in which I likewise moved to authorize the District Engineer to make a revised estimate for remodelling the Mahal for a Taluq Cutcherry. This letter was submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th March last, No. 680, in which they supported my recommendation in regard to the premises.

5. Subsequently the District Registrar of Vellore was commonly addressed and inquired whether there was any other building more suitable for the Special Sub-Registry.

6. In his letter, of the 15th [illegible] to the Board in my letter of the 15th [illegible] requested that the Government might be [illegible] to make a revised estimate for remodelling [illegible] as the business of the Inspector-General of Registration brought to my notice that the accommodation proposed to be provided in the Mahal for the Special Sub-Registry was wholly unsuited for the purpose, [illegible] part of the Mahal available which would [illegible] Office than that now proposed to be [illegible] thorough repair" to the Acting Sub-Collector requesting that he would furnish me with this information. The Acting Sub-Collector in reply intimated that the rooms intended for the Taluk Cutcherry in the Mahal are about to be made over to the Vellore Special Sub-Registrar's Office.

7. Referring to the [illegible] of Forests forwarded to me the correspondence that passed between the Acting Sub-Collector and himself in regard to the accommodation originally proposed to be provided in the Mahal for the Special Sub-Registry, and that, if he is not able to get the rooms in a suitable house in Vellore might be [illegible] for a Forest Office. The Acting Sub-Collector was then again addressed by me and requested again forcibly to bring [illegible] Register and see whether the [illegible] already asserted to the Forest Department the Sub-Registrar. I at the same time [illegible], it will then be [illegible] to be added to the Mahal to secure space [illegible]

8. Mr. Austin informed me that he had inspected the Goomsoor Mahal in company with the Acting District and Assistant Engineers, and that the best arrangement possible under the circumstances of the Mahal, and to suit Department, would be that either by the exception of the small cells [illegible] there is no existing accommodation for [illegible] one of the blocks of new buildings [illegible] not probably not less than Rupees 1,500.

and would also tend to crowd the premises. In conclusion, Mr. Austin remarks as follows:—

"Before, however, any further sums are expended on this Mahal, I think it should be very seriously considered whether the building when finished will be fit for the purpose for which it is intended. To that portion of the building intended for the Treasury and for the Shanbogue's room, I have no great objection, although I by no means consider the accommodation perfect, but the building intended for the Court of the 2nd-class Magistrate is in my opinion open to almost every possible objection. As a Court it ought to be on a open building, well lighted, thoroughly ventilated, and easily accessible to the public as a matter of fact, it is hidden away behind the other buildings, surrounded by walls both of the building itself and its compound, badly ventilated, difficult of approach, and will, I fear, be very dark. At present I understand something less than Rupees 1,900 have been spent upon the building. No doubt it would be highly unsatisfactory to have to regard this money as wasted, but it would be better to submit to the first loss than to go on spending money on a building which in the long run would prove useless. Finally, I cannot help observing that I think a town like Vellore with a population of something like 40,000 people should have a better class of Taluq Cutcherry than the one we propose giving it."

8. On receipt of this letter I at once arranged to visit Vellore, and in company with the Sub-Collector, District Engineer, and the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Vincent, I made a most careful inspection of the Mahal, and discussed the proposed changes in the Mahal at great length, and we were unanimously of opinion that it will be perfectly impossible to adapt the Goomsoor Mahal for use as a Taluq Cutcherry, providing accommodation as required for the Sub Registrar. Downstairs there is no room for him, and the staircase which leads [illegible] intended for a Forest Office, and has been [illegible] Registrar is not more than a foot and [illegible] is a physical impossibility for two persons [illegible] approached from near the Mahal, and it [illegible] deal of business done in the Vellore Sub-[illegible] say that there should be the most easy [illegible] on locating the Sub-Registrar in the upper [illegible] can be allotted to the utmost inconvenience [illegible] Treasury Department by the constant [illegible] room through the very cramped space [illegible] the lower rooms of the Mahal.

9. The Taluq Magistrate's room [illegible] be very low and badly ventilated, [illegible] the sun on the verandah. It is wholly [illegible] suppose that it should ever have been [illegible] We were finally, after the most careful [illegible] opinion that it will be infinitely the best [illegible] scheme of altering the Goomsoor Mahal [illegible] one on the standard plan outside the Fort.

10. About Rupees 1,500 has been [illegible] already sanctioned, and as I will now proceed [illegible] well and suit in providing office accommodation [illegible] now greatly in need of it. The Range Office [illegible] extremely inconvenient, dark, and ill ventilated [illegible] the second story which was originally proposed to be assigned to the Sub-[illegible] a breadth so narrow indeed that it [illegible] pass each other. This staircase is [illegible] access to which [illegible] There is a great [illegible] Office, and it is absolutely necessary [illegible] the new office, but it is situated [illegible] and which is the only place that will be occasioned to the Shanbogue's [illegible] people to and from the upper [illegible] been set aside for their occupation in [illegible]

[illegible] be pointed out by Mr. Austin, will [illegible] walls, and exposed to the glare of [illegible] for the purpose, and I cannot but [illegible] decided to recommend it to such vast [illegible] question of the question, decidedly of [illegible] opinion, at this stage, to abandon the [illegible] Taluq Cutcherry and to construct a new [illegible]

[illegible] that expended in the alterations [illegible] proposed to show, this money will have been [illegible] for two Government officials who are [illegible] Vellore is just now located in an [illegible] old building in the Fort. The Forest

Office is held at present in a building for which a rent of Rupees 15 a-month is paid, but it is liable to be turned out by the proprietor at a month's notice should any one require the building for a dwelling house or offer a higher rent. It is therefore highly desirable that these offices should be located in some building not liable to these objections. The District Engineer, the Sub Collector, and I are all of opinion that the Commissariat Godown, with some further alterations, which will probably cost about Rupees 3000, is excellently adapted for the purposes of these two offices. The upper rooms could be offered to the Range Officer and the lower portion of the building to the Forest Department.

13. Under all these circumstances, I beg strongly to recommend that a new Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore may be constructed, and that, with this object, the District Engineer may be authorized to submit to Government a plan and estimate for the same, and that the Governor Madras may be requested may be appropriated for the Revenue and Forest Offices.

14. The District Engineer, the Sub-Collector, and I have selected a very excellent site on which the new Cutcherry can be erected. It is close to the town, on high ground, well drained within itself, on the left hand side of the road leading from the Fort to Chittoor (or the road to Vellore). Compensation would have to be paid to the Poligar, whose property this site and land in and in the vicinity, would be about Rupees 3000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Public Works Department,
and F. S. Taylor, Esq.

Statement referred to in the above letter, dated 6th October 1876.

No.	Description of Building.	Number of Rooms.	Rent per Month.	Remarks.
1	Sub-Collector's Office	3	15	
2	Tahsildar's Office	3	10	
3	Sheristadar's Office	1	5	
4	Treasury	1	5	
5	Police Office	1	5	
6	Police Lock-up	1	5	
7	Police Lock-up	1	5	
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to accommodate the Sub-Registrar would cost probably not less than Rupees 1,500, and would also tend to crowd the premises. In conclusion, Mr. Austin remarks as follows:—

"Before, however, any further sum is expended on this Mahal, I think it should be very seriously considered whether the building when adapted will be fit for the purpose for which it is intended. To that portion of the building intended for the Treasury and for the Sheristadar's room, I have no great objection, although I by no means consider the accommodation perfect, but the building intended for the Court of the 2nd-class Magistrate in my opinion open to almost every possible objection. As a Court it ought to be an open building, well lighted, thoroughly ventilated, and easily accessible to the public, as a matter of fact, it is hidden away behind the other buildings, surrounded by walls, both of the building itself and its compound, badly ventilated, difficult of approach, and will, I fear, be very dark. At present I understand something less than Rupees 1,500 have been spent upon the building. No doubt it would be highly unsatisfactory to have to regard this money as wasted; but it would be better to submit to the first loss than to go on spending money on a building which in the long run would prove useless. Finally, I cannot help observing that I think a town like Vellore with a population of something like 40,000 people should have a better class of Taluq Cutcherry than the one we propose giving it."

8. On receipt of this letter I at once arranged to visit Vellore, and in company with the Sub-Collector, District Engineer, and the Assistant Engineer Mr. Vincent, I made a most careful inspection of the Mahal, and discussed the proposed changes in the Mahal he great length, and we were unanimously of opinion that it will be perfectly impossible to adapt the Procession Mahal for use as a Taluq Cutcherry, providing accommodation as required for the Sub-Registrar. Downstairs there is no room but the staircase, which leads up to the second story which was originally intended for a Forest Office, and has been latterly proposed to be assigned to the Sub-Registrar, is not more than 4 feet 6 inches wide, and is narrow, dark and gloomy. Besides there is a practical impossibility for two persons to pass each other. The staircase is approached from inside the Mahal, and it is impossible to widen it. There is a great deal of business done in the Vellore Sub-Registry Office, and it is absolutely necessary that there should be the most easy access to the new office, but if it is decided on housing the Sub-Registrar in the Procession Mahal the greatest inconvenience will be experienced by the public in getting to the Sheristadar's and Treasury Departments by the corridor which runs through the very centre of the building, and which is used by hundreds of people daily, as it is the only way from the upper to the lower floors of the Mahal.

9. The Taluq Magistrate's room is on the west side of the Mahal, and is very dark and gloomy, and would be quite unsuitable for the purpose. It is the only room on the west side. It will be necessary to have a room for the Taluq Magistrate, and it should be a large one. We are unable even to suggest any other room in the Mahal which could be utilized for the purpose, and it would be necessary to construct a new one in a convenient place outside the Fort.

10. As I have already explained, I will now proceed to Vellore, and will personally discuss the matter with the Collector, and will report the result of my visit to Government.

11. I am of opinion that the Procession Mahal is not suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, and that it would be a waste of money to spend any more on it. I am also of opinion that the Taluq Cutcherry should be removed from the Fort, and that a new building should be constructed in a more convenient place. I will report further after my visit to Vellore.

12. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Collector of North Arcot, and to the Sub-Collector, District Engineer, and Assistant Engineer, Vellore.

13. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) A. G. Cumming,
Chief Engineer.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Madras.

Copy of a letter from the Collector of North Arcot, No. 1,000, dated 15th June 1932.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, No. 1,000, dated 15th June 1932, regarding the Procession Mahal in Vellore Fort.

2. The Chief Engineer has already explained to you how this matter will have to be referred to Government officials, who are in Vellore to-day and to-morrow.

3. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) A. Austin,
Collector.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Madras.

extremely inconvenient, dark, and ill-ventilated buildings in the Fort. The Forest Office is held at present on a building for which a rent of Rupees 15 a-month is paid, but it is liable to be turned out by the proprietor at a month's notice, should any one require the building for a dwelling house or other a higher rent. It is, therefore, highly desirable that these offices should be located in some building not liable to these objections. The District Engineer, the Sub-Collector, and I are all of opinion that the Coonsoor Mahal, with some further alterations, which will probably cost about Rupees 500, is excellently adapted for the purposes of these two offices. The upper rooms would be allotted to the Range Officer and the lower portion of the building to the Forest Department.

11. Under all things considered, I beg strongly to recommend that a new Talug Cutcherry at Vellore may be constructed, and that, with this object, the District Engineer may be authorized to submit to Government a plan and estimate for the same, and that the Coonsoor Mahal as now suggested may be appropriated for the Range and Forest Offices.

12. The District Engineer, the Sub-Collector, and I have selected a very excellent site on which the new Cutcherry can be erected. It is close to the town, on high lying and well-drained ground, on the left-hand side of the road leading from the Railway Station to the town of Vellore. Compensation would have to be paid to the Patadar, which, at the rate at which land is sold in the vicinity, would be about Rupees [illegible].

Memorandum for the information of Government with reference to Board's Proceedings, 14th March 1870, No. 670.

2. The Board have not seen the plan and estimate submitted in G.O., Public Works Department, 23rd August [illegible], and are unable to appreciate the reasons why it is certainly very desirable to [illegible] some of the objections now urged as to the Talug Cutcherry at Vellore. [illegible] Mahal deemed by [illegible] and [illegible] to be about Rupees [illegible].

(A true extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of [illegible].

Extract from Minutes.

Revenue Dept
No 3855

1876.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Proceedings, 10th November 1876, No. 2,792

Copy to 9th Dec 1876

Encl.

Received

NOVEMBER.

No. 2,792.

Value Ordnance, &c.—Submitting to Government letter from Collector of North Arcot, recommending that a — be constructed at Vellore outside the Fort, and that the Thoompoor Mahal be appropriated for Range and Forest Offices.