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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

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

Dated 197

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2033/1 2033/1

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. E. 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 unsuitability 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. 476. 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. 552, 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 [illegible]used Mahals or Military buildings in the Fort.

3. Mr. Sewell, who had then rever[illegible]d to his appointment as Sub-Collector, reported thereupon that the Goonisoor Ma[illegible]ich was then occupied by only one State prisoner, might with some alterati[illegible] very easily converted into a Taluq Cutcherry, and recommended that the alte[illegible] required for re-adapting it for the purpose, the cost of which the District En[illegible] roughly estimated at Rupees 3,200, might be sanctioned. My letter reporting [illegible]commendation having been submitted to Government by the Board with their [illegible]dings, dated 25th September 1873, No. 1,939, the Government in their Order, [illegible]th October 1873, No. 409, desired to be informed how the one State prisoner lod[illegible] the Goonisoor Mahal was to be accommodated under the proposed arrangement. [illegible] information having been furnished in my letter of the 4th November 1873, No. [illegible]e Government in their Order, dated 22nd January 1874, No. 26, directed that [illegible]oonisoor Mahal should be altered and adapted for a Taluq Cutcherry. An estima[illegible]ounting to Rupees 2,760 with plan for thus altering and adopting the Mahal, wa[illegible]ccordingly submitted by the District Engineer, and was sanctioned by Governme[illegible] their Order of the 22nd August 1874, No. 2,390, communicated with the Board's [illegible]ceedings, dated 14th September 1874, Miscellaneous No. 3,189.

4. While the necessary repairs were [illegible] progress, the building was inspected by the Acting Sub-Collector Mr. Lister, who br[illegible]ught to my notice that the rooms assigned for the Treasury and for the Taluq Sherista[illegible] were extremely small and unsuited for the purpose, and that the Tahsildar, Sherista[illegible], and Treasury would be all crowded up in an inconveniently small space, and made [illegible]rtain suggestions calculated to remedy these defects as far as possible. Mr. Lis[illegible] meanwhile left the district, and was succeeded by Mr. Austin, to whom I referr[illegible] the matter for opinion. Mr. Austin entirely approved of the re-arrangement, [illegible]d suggested some further alterations. Agreeing with Messrs. Lister and Austin [illegible]he advisability of the re-arrangements

2032/1

proposed by them, I reported on the matter to the Board in my letter of the 15th February last, No. 68, in which I likewise requested that the Government might be moved to authorize the District Engineer to frame a revised estimate for readapting the Mahal for a Taluq Cutcherry. This letter was submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th March last, No. 695, in which they supported my recommendation in regard to the preparation of a revised plan and estimate.

From District Registrar, dated 22nd March and 26th June 1876, Nos. 22 and 50 respectively.

5. Subsequently the District Registrar at the instance of the Inspector-General of Registration brought to my notice that the accommodation proposed to be provided in the Mahal for the Special Sub-Registrar of Vellore was extremely inadequate and wholly unsuited for the purpose, and inquired whether there was any other part of the Mahal available which would be more suitable for the Special Sub-Registrar's Office than that now proposed to be assigned to it. I thereupon wrote* to the Acting Sub-Collector requesting that he would furnish me with this information. The Acting Sub-Collector in reply† informed me that the rooms intended for the location of the office of the Deputy Con[illegible]vator of Forests in the Mahal are alone available for providing better accommodation for the Vellore Special Sub-Registrar's Office.

6. Meanwhile the Deputy Co[illegible] of Forests forwarded to me the correspondence that passed between the Acting [illegible]ub-Collector and himself in regard to [illegible] accommodation originally proposed to [illegible] assigned to him in the Mahal, an[illegible] [illegible]d that, if he is not able to get the rooms in the Mahal intended for a For[illegible] [illegible] a suitable house in Vellore might be [illegible]rchased for a Forest Office. The Acting [illegible]b-Collector was then again addressed [illegible] and requested again carefully to [illegible] the buildings in company wi[illegible] [illegible] District Engineer and see whether some other portion of the Mahal than [illegible] already assigned to the Forest Department might not be allotted for the [illegible] the Sub-Registrar. I at the same time observed that, if no such accommodation is [illegible] available, it will then be matter for consideration whether a couple of rooms [illegible] might be added to the Mahal to secure space for the Sub-Registrar.

7. In his letter‡ of the 14th [illegible]st, Mr. Austin informed me that he had inspected the Goomsoor Mahal in company with the Acting District and Assistant Engineers, that they were all of op[illegible] [illegible] the best arrangement possible under the circumstance is to locate the Sub-[illegible] [illegible]n the upper-rooms of the Mahal, and to provide separate accommodation f[illegible] [illegible]st Department outside the Fort either by purchasing or renting a house; for [illegible] [illegible] exception of the small side room now objected to by the Registration De[illegible] [illegible] there is no existing accommodation for the Sub-Registrar in the Mahal, a[illegible] to accommodate the Sub-Registrar [illegible] either one of the blocks of side buildings [illegible] cost probably not less than Rupees 1,500,

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* To Acting Sub-Collector, 30th June 1876, No. 1,245.

† From Acting Sub-Collector, 28th July 1876, No. 582.

From Deputy Conservator of Forests, [illegible] July 1876, No. [illegible]

To Acting Sub-Collector, 2nd August [illegible] No. [illegible]

‡ [illegible] No. 619.

2033/1

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 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 is 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 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 th[illegible] Sub-Registrar. Downstairs there is no room for him, and the stair-case, which leads u[illegible] the second story which was originally intended for a Forest Office, and has been lat[illegible] proposed to be assigned to the Sub-Registrar, is not more than a foot and a h[illegible] in breadth, so narrow indeed that it is a physical impossibility for two person[illegible] pass each other. This stair-case is approached from inside the Mahal, and it i[illegible] [illegible]ossible to widen it. There is a great deal of business done in the Vellore Sub-R[illegible]ar's Office, and it is absolutely necessary that there should be the most easy ac[illegible] [illegible] the new office, but if it is insisted on locating the Sub-Registrar in the upper [illegible]s, (and which is the only space that can be allotted him,) the utmost inconvenie[illegible] will be occasioned to the Sheristadar's and Treasury Departments by the constant [illegible]age of people to and from the upper room through the very cramped space th[illegible] been set aside for their occupation in the lower rooms of the Mahal.

9. The Taluq Magistrate's room, as [illegible]ly pointed out by Mr. Austin, will be very low and badly ventilated, shut in [illegible]gh walls, and exposed to the glare of the sun on the west side. It is wholly [illegible]ed for the purpose, and I cannot but feel surprise that it should ever have be[illegible]tended to appropriate it to such use. We were finally, after the most careful [illegible]scussion of the question, decidedly of opinion that it will be infinitely the be[illegible] [illegible]lan, even at this stage, to abandon the scheme of altering the Goomsoor Mahal [illegible] Cutcherry and to construct a new one on the standard plan outside the Fort.

10. About Rupees 1,500 has up [illegible] date been expended in the alterations already sanctioned, and, as I will now pr[illegible]ed to show, this money will have been well laid out in providing office accommoda[illegible] for two Government officials who are now greatly in need of it. The Range O[illegible]e in Vellore is just now located in an extremely inconvenient, dark, and ill-vent[illegible]ed 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 Goonsoor 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 could be allotted to the Range Officer and the lower portion of the building to the Forest Department.

11. 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 Goonsoor 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 patta land, 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 Pattadar, which, at the rate at which land is sold in the vicinity, would be about Rupees 500.

Submitted for the orders of Government with reference to Board's Proceedings, 15th March 1875, No. 626.

2. The Board have not seen [illegible] and estimate sanctioned in G.O., Public Works Department, 22nd August [illegible] 2,390, and are unable to appreciate the force of the objection now urged af[illegible] scheme, but it is certainly very desirable that the Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore [illegible] in some conspicuous and easily accessible locality not shut up within the [illegible] of the Fort.

(A true [illegible] Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 320. Order thereon, [illegible]ember 1876, No. 2,013.

Revenue.

Returned to the Public Works Department with the remark that it is to be regretted that there should have been so much delay in discovering the [illegible] of the building for a Taluq Cutcherry. It was [illegible] designed in 1873 [illegible] whether the outlay already incurred [illegible] be incurred in small amount should th[illegible] of the proposals in paragraph 10 be adopted. The construction of a new Taluq [illegible] must necessarily take time, and the proposal [illegible] will be [illegible] now.

([illegible] Extract.)

([illegible]) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

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

Ind. [illegible]

2033/4

2033/4

No. 2,792.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th November 1876.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Punganur, 5th October 1876, No. 474:—

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 unsuitability 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 12th M[illegible]3, No. 176. Copy of this letter was submitted to the Board by the then Actin[illegible]ector Mr. Sewell with his letter of the 20th June 1873, No. 352, in which he re[illegible]nded the construction of a new Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore, and requested the [illegible] to move Government to authorize the District Engineer to prepare a plan and [illegible]ate for the erection of such a building within the Fort of Vellore.

2. The Board thereupon, in their [illegible] memorandum, dated 9th July 1873, No. 1,011, inquired whether accommoda[illegible]r the Tahsildar's Office could not be provided at a small expense in some of the [illegible]ed Mahals or Military buildings in the Fort.

3. Mr. Sewell, who had then rev[illegible] to his appointment as Sub-Collector, reported thereupon that the Goonsoor Ma[illegible]hich was then occupied by only one State prisoner, might with some alterati[illegible] very easily converted into a Taluq Cutcherry, and recommended that the alte[illegible]s required for re-adapting it for the purpose, the cost of which the District En[illegible]oughly estimated at Rupees 3,200, might be sanctioned. My letter reporting [illegible]ommendation having been submitted to Government by the Board with their [illegible]ings, dated 25th September 1873, No. 1,939, the Government in their Order, d[illegible]th October 1873, No. 409, desired to be informed how the one State prisoner lod[illegible]he Goonsoor Mahal was to be accommodated under the proposed arrangement. [illegible]nformation having been furnished in my letter of the 4th November 1873, No. [illegible]e Government in their Order, dated 22nd January 1874, No. 25, directed that [illegible]oonsoor Mahal should be altered and adapted for a Taluq Cutcherry. An estimat[illegible]ounting to Rupees 2,740 with plan for thus altering and adapting the Mahal w[illegible]ordingly submitted by the District Engineer, and was sanctioned by Governm[illegible] their Order of the 22nd August 1874, No. 2,390, communicated with the Board's [illegible]eedings, dated 14th September 1874, Miscellaneous No. 1,959.

4. While the necessary repairs were in progress, the building was inspected by the Acting Sub-Collector Mr. Lacey, who brought to my notice that the rooms assigned for the Treasury and for the Taluq Sheristadar were extremely small and unsuited for the purpose, and that the Tahsildar, Sheristadar, and Treasury would be all crowded on an inconveniently small space, and made certain suggestions calculated to remedy these defects as far as possible. Mr. [illegible] meanwhile 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 in the advisability of the re-arrangements proposed by them, I reported on the matter to the Board in my letter of the 15th February last, No. 68, in which I likewise requested that the Government might be moved to authorize the District Engineer to frame a revised estimate for re-adapting the Mahal for a Taluq Cutcherry. This letter was submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings, dated 14th March last, No. 605, in which they supported my recommendation in regard to the preparation of a revised plan and estimate.

5. Subsequently the District Registrar at the instance of the Inspector-General of Registration brought to my notice that

From District Registrar, dated 22nd March and 28th June 1876, Nos. 83 and [illegible] respectively.

the accommodation proposed to be pro-
vided in the Mahal for the Special Sub-
Registrar of Vellore was extremely
ate and wholly unsuited for the purpose,
and inquired whether there was an
part of the Mahal available which would
be more suitable for the Special Sub-
rar's Office than that now proposed to be
assigned to it. I therefore wrote* to the
Acting Sub-Collector requesting that he
would furnish me with this information.
The Acting Sub-Collector in reply† in-
formed me that the rooms intended for the
Deputy Conservator of Forests in the Mahal are those
for the Vellore Special Sub-Registrar's
Office.

* To Acting Sub-Collector, 30th June, No. 1,50[illegible]

† From Acting Sub-Collector, [illegible] July, No. 29[illegible]

6. Meanwhile, the District Co
of Forests, in various letters on the corre-
spondence that had passed between the Acting
Sub-Collector and himself in regard to
the accommodation originally proposed to
be assigned to him in the Mahal, and
that, if it is now the intent the rooms
in the Mahal provided for a Fore
an outside house in Vellore might be
rented for a Forest Office. The Acting
Sub-Collector has been again addressed
by me and requested again carefully to
inspect the building in company with
the District Engineer and see whether
some other portion of the Mahal than
this already assigned to the Forest Depart-
ment might not be allotted for
the Sub-Registrar. I at the same time
requested alterations, it will then be submitted for con-
sideration whether a separate room could be built to the Mahal to secure space
for the Sub-Registrar.

From Deputy Conservator of Forests, dated 18th July, No. 191.

To Acting Sub-Collector, 3rd August, No. [illegible]

7. In his letter of the 18th
Mr. Austin informed me that he had
inspected the Cholmondeley Mahal in company
with the Acting District and Assistant

‡ No. 617.

Engineers, that they were all of opinion that the only arrangements possible under the circumstance is to locate the Sub-Registrar in the upper rooms of the Mahal, and to provide separate accommodation for the Forest Department outside the Fort either by purchasing or renting a house; that with the exception of the small side room now allotted to the Registration Department, there is no existing accommodation for the Sub-Registrar in the Mahal, and that to one of the blocks of out-buildings

2033

Govt. of Madras

New Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore.—Referring to the Public Works Department, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relating to the construction of.

2033/4

2033/5

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 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 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 is 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 at great length, and we were unanimously of opinion that it will be perfectly impossible to adapt the [illegible] 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 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 a foot-and-a-half in breadth, so narrow indeed that it is a physical impossibility for two pers[illegible] pass each other. This staircase is approached from inside the Mahal, and [illegible] sible to widen it. There is a great deal of business done in the Vellore Sub-[illegible] Office, and it is absolutely necessary that there should be the most easy [illegible] the new office; but if it is insisted on locating the Sub-Registrar in the uppe[illegible] (and which is the only space that can be allotted him,) the utmost inconve[illegible] be occasioned to the Sheristadar's and Treasury Departments by the continu[illegible] of people to and from the upper room through the very cramped space th[illegible] been set aside for their occupation in the lower rooms of the Mahal.

9. The Taluq Magistrate's room, as [illegible] pointed out by Mr. Austin, will be very low and badly ventilated, shut in [illegible] walls, and exposed to the glare of the sun on the west side. It is [illegible] for the purpose, and I cannot but [illegible] suppose that it should ever have be[illegible] to appropriate it to such use. We were finally, after the most careful [illegible] of the question, decidedly of opinion that it will be infinitely [illegible] at this stage, to abandon the scheme of altering the [illegible] Mahal [illegible] Cutcherry and to construct a new one on a [illegible] outside the [illegible]

10. About Rupees 1,500 [illegible] date been expended in the alterations [illegible] this money will have been [illegible] Government officials, who are [illegible] in Vellore is just now located in an [illegible]

extremely inconvenient, dark, and ill-ventilated 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 Goomsoor 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 could be allotted to the Range Officer and the lower portion of the building to the Forest Department.

11. 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 Goomsoor 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 punja land, 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 Puttadar, which, at the rate at which land is sold in the vicinity, would be about Rupees 700.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with reference to Board's Proceedings, 11th March 1876, No. 620.

2. The Board have not seen the plan and estimate sanctioned in G.O., Public Works Department, 22nd August [illegible] 2,500, and are unable to appreciate the force of the objections now urged a[illegible] some ; but it is certainly very desirable that the Taluq Cutcherry at Vellore [illegible] in some conspicuous and easily accessible locality and not cooped up within [illegible] the Fort.

(A true [illegible] nd Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Reven[illegible] ent.

Copy to the Collector of North Ar[illegible]

[illegible]

Revenue Dept

No 5058

1876.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

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

Dispd 20 Nov 76

Encl.

Received 21 Nov

NOVEMBER.

No. 2,792.

Taluq Cutcherry, Vellore.—Submitting to Government letter from Collector of North Arcot, recommending that a — be constructed at Vellore outside the Fort, and that the [illegible] Mahal be appropriated for Range and Forest Offices.

With orders

No 2092 14 Dec 1876

No 2092 Referred to Public Works Dept, with the remark that it [illegible] be regretted that there should have been so much delay in discovering the unsuitability of the building for a Taluq Cutcherry. It will be considered in that Dept. whether the outlay already incurred can be turned to good account should the Collector's proposals in para 10 be adopted. The construction of a new Taluq Cutcherry cannot necessarily take place and the [illegible] of a [illegible] will be of little use just now.
14 Dec 1876

[illegible] Forest Dept Office
at the Public Works Dept