CHAPTER - III
THE EXTENT OF BLACK TOWN – GEORGE TOWN

The Modern Towns were created by the British in India. Before the arrival of
them there were several villages and Kuppams in Tondaimandalam. Madarasapatnam
forms part of Tondaimandalam which is evident from the epigraphs of Sengalunir
Pillaiyar Temple Adhipuriswara Temple at Tiruvorriyur, Tiruvalikeni, Mylapore and
Purasaiwakkam. The Tiruvorriyur region comes under Jayankonda Sola Mandalam,
Pulal kottam, consisting of 5 nadus viz., Nayar, Ambattur, Agudi, Attur, and Eghimer.
Agriculture and fishery were the main occupation of the people. They led a peaceful and
simple life in the pastoral region. The territorial unit “Nagaram” in Tamil means the
“Mercantile city” “Town” capital’ and ‘Metropolis’. Generally, it was the settlement of
the merchants. The term “Patnam” or Pattinam is a common Tamil suffix to names of
villages or towns situated on the seashore.

The British arrived and established their settlement in southern India in
1639. Their settlement was called as Madarasapatnam or Chennapatnam. It was also
distinguished as Madarasapatnam which denotes the settlement of the Europeans and
Chennapatnam as that of the Natives. The European Town was also called as “White
Town” and to its north lies the “Black Town” inhabited by the “Blacks” or the
“Natives”. The Natives were called as “Blacks” from their colour complexion.

The term “Town” means “collection of dwellings larger than a village”
Township means “Division of a country”

This chapter deals with the extent of the Black Town at various times, how it was
modified and transformed has also been analysed based on the important events and the
requirements of the British. Besides, the official Records, the drawings and Maps
produced by the British and the French in the years 1653, 1688, 1710, 1733, 1746, 1750,
1814, 1822, 1901 and other related maps. These maps shows the development of
Madrasapatnam from its inception till the beginning of the 19th century.

The White Town was originally called as “Christian Town.” To its north lies the
“Native Town” or “Black Town”. The Topography of the region has already been
elaborated in the Introductory chapter. The White Town was generally Triangle or
Quadrangle and Quadrilateral in shape. Two rivers flow on its north and west. Of which
one was called as Triplicane river, now known as Kuvam river. The other smaller stream
called as North or Elambore river. Both rivers flowed parallel to and about a mile distant
from the coast along the west side of Madrasapatnam. It reached the General Hospital
and bent to the east and then southward for about 3 ½ miles was within 300 yards of the
Triplicane River and at that point a cut was made. A low lying marshy tract of land lying
between the river was surrounded by water forming an Island. The two streams formed a wide back water. The site chosen for the fort was a point on the surf bank of sand lay between the North or Elambore river and the sea, three quarter of a mile north of the outlet and south of the town or village of Madarasapatnam.\textsuperscript{12}

**WHITE TOWN**

As far as the British settlement in Madrasapatnam is concerned, the land grant does not specify the extent of the territory transferred to the British. In the year 1641, the Dutch Records state that the land had 15 to 20 fishermen’s huts in the beginning there were about 70 or 80 houses, including many persons driven from Santhome and neighbouring towns by bad trade or hope of employment in Madras.

The land was granted for a period of 30 years. C. S. Srinivasachari in his book quotes that when the fort was begun there were two French padres and half a dozen houses occupied by fishermen. By November 1640 there were about 400 families settled.

The Naik of Chengleput had intimated that the new settlement would be founded in the name of his father Chennappa and named as “\textit{Chennapattinam}” or “\textit{City of Chennappa}”.

The cowle granted by Sriranga Raya mentions the name of the town as “\textit{Sri Ranga Raya Pattinam, My Town}”\textsuperscript{13}; in another place, it has been mentioned that my “\textit{New Towns}”be called as “\textit{Sri Ranga Roya Pattinam}”\textsuperscript{14}.

C. S. Srinivasachari has discussed about the origin of the name Chennapatnam and Madarasapatnam. He mentioned that the original village \textit{Madarasapatnam} lay to the north of the site of the Fort St. George, the new town which grew up round the fort came to be known as Indians as \textit{Chennapatnam} and finally he concluded that Madarasapatnam was regarded as the site of the Fort and Chennapatnam as the Indian town which lies to its north.\textsuperscript{15} Indue course of time the European town came to be called as “\textit{White Town}”. The name \textit{Fort St. George} is given in a letter dated 17\textsuperscript{th} July 1642.\textsuperscript{16}

The Historian, Dr. S. Muthiah in his book \textit{Madras its Past and Its Present} writes, “\textit{When the earlier East India company trading post, north of the silver of no man’s sand that was called Madras}”. Day and his superior Andrew Cogan and their Dubash Timmappa built a fortified “\textit{Factory}” christening it on \textit{St. George’s Day}, April 23, 1640 “\textit{Fort St. George}”.\textsuperscript{17}

H. D. Love in his book \textit{Vestiges of Old Madras} quotes,”“Just south of the town or village of \textit{Madarasapatam}, at or near the site were a few huts forming a small \textit{Kuppam} or fishing hamlet. The extent of the territory transferred under the Naik’s grant is nowhere specified”.\textsuperscript{18}
Tollboy Wheeler in his book *Madras in Olden Times* recorded, “The Naik of Chingleput had previously intimated that the new settlement would be in the name of his own father, Chennapa and the name of Chennapatnam or *City of Chennappa* having been once applied to the confused assemblage of boomboo huts which sprang up near the Fort” However, the name Madras is still retained.\(^{19}\)

Dr. K. V. Raman, in his book *The Early history of the Madras Region*” records that “This newly risen town of *Madarasapatam* with its fort became the seat of Agency in the place of Madarasapatam from 24\(^{th}\) September, 1641”\(^{20}\) Hence forth, Madras became the chief of the English factories on the east coast. He further discussed about origin of the name *Chennapatnam* and *Madarasapatnam*. He quotes the Telugu work “*Ushaparinayam*” which mentions the name *Chennapatnam*.\(^{21}\)

Further, he discussed about the location of Chennapatnam. Accordingly, “Chennapatnam was the name given to the new town that grew immediately around the Fort St. George older plot called Madarasapatnam lay to the north of it. The intervening space between the older northern site of Madarasapatnam and the southern plot of Chennapatnam came to quickly built over with houses of the new settlers as the town expanded so that the two villages became one town” However, he finally concluded *Madarasapatnam* was regarded as the site of the Fort and *Chennapatnam* as the *Indian Town* to the north”\(^{22}\).

Dr. Rajaraman in his book *Chennai Through The Ages* records while discussing the origin the word “*Madras*” is a “*Puzzle*”. He further says that the historians have no unanimity of opinion about its origin. He also further says that “the land granted to them was a narrow peninsula contains both names Madarasapatnam and Chennapatnam”.\(^{23}\)

Dr. S. Muthiah in his book *Madras Discovered* mentions, “The English Factory was more than a fortified enclosure. Fort St. George was completed in the year 1640, April 23, and few thatched huts. The factory approximately *100 by 100 yards square* and costing 9250 pagodas”. With houses of settlers coming up to the north and south of the Fort and a surrounding bastion built to protect them. He further says “*White Town*” came into existence to the north of Black Town. But it is confusing only the Black Town sprang up to the north of Fort St. George.\(^{24}\)

The extent of the territory transferred under the Naik’s grant is nowhere specified. The fort was defended by four bastions. The first bastion was at the south east angle, which was finished in the year 1640, at a cost of £375. The second on the north east was built in 1641, the third on the east in 1642. On these works and Factory House Cogan spent about £4150 in the year 1643. Greenhill completed these two curtains in 1652. The fourth on the eastern curtain was completed in the year 1653.\(^{25}\)
A map of 1653 shows a small fort was built in the purchased land. It took nearly 13 years to complete it. The settlement had increased in compounds have been built along the side of the river, Godowns to the North of the old Fort, a wall round three sides and a village had grown up to the North. The boundary passed through a point on the coast 300 yards north of the river outlet and travelled across the Island to the cut uniting the two rivers. It then followed the Elambore river again at the north west angle of the present George Town, bending due east till about 1000 yards from the coast, it then turned to the north for a distance of some 2000 yards. Finally, it empties into the sea. The total length tract from north to south was 3 ¼ miles and it mean width one mile.

CHRISTIAN TOWN

In the year 1661, during the administration of Governor Chambers, the out works of the Christian Town was completed. For the first time the European quarter was mentioned as Christian Town in the Factory Records of 1661.

Dr. John Fryer, surgeon to the East India company, visited and lived in Madras in the year 1673. He describes White Town as “the streets are sweet and clean ranked with fine mansions of no extraordinary height through beauty, which they conciliate by the battlements and terrace walks on every house and rows of threes before their doors whose Italian Porticoes makes no ordinary conveyance into their houses built with brick and stone”

He further describes, the Governor’s mansion was built at an angle to the inner bastions in order to deflect cannon fire. The defensive feature was to restrict the height of the houses inside the citadel so that they were not an easy target for enemy’s fire. The out work was walled with stone of good height, to blunt a canon bullet.

The map shows the Governor’s House was at the centre. The sea Gate opens on the east, the four bastion on all four sides both in the inner and outer fort. A protestant church and two Gates on its north side, the interval space between Chennapatnam and Madarasapatnam was rapidly built over so that the places become one.

D. M Reid describes the Fort as, “the vacant spaces in the extended fortications thatched huts cover dwellings and accumulation of merchandise of the rough sort carpenter making furniture for ships, carts being mended, cattle feeding from the coarse forage. On the east out at sea, in the roads of the sandy beach, two small ships ride an anchor facing the prevailing southerly breeze. A masula boat with coir twin and caulked with coconut fibre, paddles slowly towards the breakers, bring a barrel for store water”. In 1674, there were 118 houses in White Town.

In Lengle’s map 1688 (Map No.2) shows the rapid development of White and Black Towns. This map shows the Inner Fort of St. George and the river flows on its
south west. A garden is also seen on the south west of the Fort. White Town was less crowded. A simple and panoramic view of the town is shown in the map.  

In 1694 – 95, the Fort House was pulled down and in that place the second Governor’s House was part of the central portion. The colony inside the Fort was called as White Town.

Pitt’s map of 1710 (Map No. 3) shows the new position of Governor’s House, names of the roads within the fort indicates a mint, a hospital, storehouse, a Town Hall and a carpentry yard. In 1711 Governor Harrison demolished the Inner fort and with the rubble raised the fort square opposite Governor’s House. He also rebuilt the hospital and many barracks in the fort.

The Map shows the shape of white town, i.e Factory House, and themselves surrounded by a wall as well as the old Black Town, immediately to the north of White Town and the suburbs of Mathialpettah and Comerpettah. C. S. Srinivasachari says, later on Comerpetta was called as Peddanaickenpetta, but in the Map of Pitt, both Comerpettah and Peddanaickpettah is shown to the west of Peddanaickenpetta. These two places lying on the north and west respectively.

In the Map we can also see the following places in White Town Factory House, St. Mary’s Church and the Portuguese Church. In the Remarks of Map, he quoted the following places such as (a) The Government House, (b) The store House (c) The Guard House (d) The New Hospital (e) The carpentary yard (f) The Mint (g) The English church (h) The Town Hall (j) The Portuguese Church and the following Streets (1) The Choultry Street (2) Middle Gate Street (3) James Street Charles Street (4) Church Street (5) St. Thomas Street (6) Parade Street.

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE INNER FORT AND OUTER FORT OF WHITE TOWN**

The British received the grant from the Nayak in 1639 which measured 3 ¼ mile from north to south and its mean width was about a mile, and this tract does not cover the Narimedu region.

The British first secured their settlement by the construction of Inner Fort and a high raised rampart wall. The Fort was planned as square enclosure and provided with connecting walls, which measured 108 yards length from north to south and 100 yards from east to west. This was called as Inner Fort. An earthen wall or rampart had been built by the Agent Thomas Ivie and Aaron Baker for the defence of the whole Fort. It was constructed in the shape of four outer bastions enclosing an irregular quadrilateral, two of the bastions faced the sea and the other two on the bank of the river to the west. The first bastion was to be erected north eastern angle and the next on the south eastern extremity. Every point of which are located with ten guns alike.
Fryer describes the outer Fort. The outer work is walled with stone a good height, thick enough to blunt a cannon bullet, kept by half a dozen ordnance at each side of the “Water Gate”. Which was also called as “West Gate” “Armenian Bridge Gate” and “Sea Gate”, which enclosed the Christian Town.  

On the south side a ditch was cut with sufficient depth and breadth to preventing scaling the wall, which is a quarter of a mile in length and meet its third point of outer Fort known as Round Point facing San Thome. From this point to the fourth which lies north western angle called Caldera Point. From the first point a curtain or northern wall, is drawn with a parapet beneath it are two gates named Middle Gate or Choultry Gate or North Gate Between the Caldera Point and the point by the sea named Fisher’s Point, a curtain or wall was erected, about one hundred yards long on the north, which was pierced by two narrow gateways, which leads to Gentoo Town or Black Town.

Yet another Gate is mentioned as “Tom Clarke’s Gate”. He was an Englishman came from Masulipatnam. He constructed a house near Calderapoint. His name was coined to the Gate which lies near the North Wall. This gate was named after him as “Tom Clarke’s Gate”.

Thus, the White Town composed of the Inner Fort (or) Castle enclosing Factory House and defended by four bastions on four corners, connected by curtain walls, and the outer Fort enclosing the Inner Fort and the European Quarter, also protected by four corner bastions and by walls on three sides with two gates on north side leading into the Indian Town. Governor Yale wanted to enlarge the White Town by diverting the course of the river. A plan was also prepared by him. But the proposal was not executed for a longer period.

A record of fort St. George provides details about the expansion of the White Town.

President Yale Wrote to Governor Sir Josiah Child about turning the course of the river to a greater distance from the town thereby enlarging the Christian Town to a square. It would be great advantage in letting the Ground to be built upon for years. But in such case build a wall on the backside of the Christian Town fronting the river for as it now, “River is shallow and no wall is against it, Christian Town is very against any understanding enemy and not withstanding your forts in the angles. Christian Town may be easily entered on that side by filling up the River with flaggots, which 2 or 300 bold men would do in 6 hours time, no Brest work to defend the River with small shot. And if you should raise a fund to remove the course of the River and build a wall against it.”

In 1688, the council adopted a proposal of Yale to authoritative designations to the different works of fortification and the streets in the White and Black Town.
The four Fort Points were called *The English Point, Scotch Point, French Point, Irish Point*. The Garrison works viz., *Charles point, James Bulwark St. Thomas Point, Dover Battery, Sea Gate, Plimouth Battery, York Point, Middle gate, Choultry Gate, Gloucester Point, River Gate Battery*.

Several streets have their names and precincts as well for order and regularity as to ascertain the sales of houses and grounds therein and for collection of taxes and customs. The streets mentioned were *St. Thomas Street, James Street, Choultry Street, Middle Street, Glocester Street, York Street, York lane*. The Cardinal Points, the Garrison and the streets have identified and located by H.D. Love in his book.39

Outside English town was situated English burial place, on the north west corner of the Fort, Fryer calls it as *Golgotha*, presenting a variety of tombs, walks and sepulchres. The burial ground was found near the Indian Town and formed part of the company’s Garden.

A Spanish priest, named Dominic Navarette visited Madras in 1678, describes the Fort as “*Noble Fort*”40 Capt. Dampire, who visited Madras in 1690 had graphically described the Fort in the following words. “*It stands in a sandy spot of ground close to the shore, the sea sometimes washing its walls which are of stone and high with half moons and flanks and a great many guns mounted on the battlements*”. The description reveals the fact that the sea was very much closer to the Fort.

Thomas Bowrey visited Madras in 1699 and recorded his experience and he says, the place was very well fortified and surrounded by strong bulwark points and batteries. He also described about the Catholic Church in India.

Dr. S. Muthiah in his book *“Madras Discovered”* describes Madrasapatnam as “That irregular shape today covers about 130 sq. km, the territory running about 19km along the sea coast, much of it wide, sandy beach and being about 9km widest. It lies about 13° N and 80° longitude, and is virtually intersected by the Kuvam river in the centre and Adayar river in the south, While the Buckingham canal runs parallel to the coast almost through the entire length of the city”. Further development of the White Town synchronises with the development of Black Town.41

**BLACK TOWN (Fig. No. 3)**

The evolution and transformation of Black Town was influenced by the political activities of the Native rulers and the British and natural calamities occurred in this region. After the construction of the Fort St. George, the native Town or Black Town was established to its north. As a prelude to the following discussion the location of places and the important names are given below. In the beginning the Native town was called as “*Black town*” later on it was called as “*Old Black Town*”. The French during the Carnatic wars destroyed old Black Town which consists of Comerpet, Peddanaikpetta and
Muthialpetta. And Peddanaicken Pettah and Muthial Pettah remained as it is. Now it was called as “New Black Town”. The name Comerpetta disappeared. During the siege of Hyder Ali and Mahratta Sivajee, the New Black Town was destroyed, now it was called Mahratta Town. The old Black Town was replaced by Esplanade. The place used as public promenade. Toward the beginning of 18th C. A. D. British began to purchase new villages. In the year 1906 the entire northern region was named as George Town, which lies to the west of Peddanaickenpet, which continued down to the present day.

The Native city was called as “Black Town” in Tamil the term “Karuppu” means Blackness (or) Darkness. “Karuppan” denotes “Black man”. The Native city Black Town had a rude earthen rampart provides protection in the south and west.

The term “Pattanam” was coined by the English settlers, occupied by the native in contradiction to White Town. The area about 1000 acres, located ½ mile distance on the North. The boundary noted by C. D. Maclean is North by Tondiarpet, South by Fort St. George from it is separated by the Esplanade, east by the sea at spring tides. Crowded with houses and narrow streets.

It was divided into two Pettahs Peddanaickenpettah the western half and Mootialpettah in the eastern.

MUTTIYALAPETTAI – MOOTAL PETTAH

Muttiyalupettai is a Tamil term, but Muttaiyalu seems to be Telugu proper name and Pettai means suburb or village. Muttaiyalupettai covered 345 acres. It lies ½ mile from Fort St. George.

PEDDANAICKENPETTAI

This term seems to have derived from theb term Peddanayakkulu, a proper name, petta or village. It is located ¼ miles W. N. W of Fort St. George.

MANNADY

It is located one mile north of Fort St. George it connects Popham’s Broadway on the west and Lingi Chetty Street on the east. When the Popham Broadway was the bed of a river separating the two pettahs. This region was an area, filled with sand from Hog hill. Hence, this place was called as Mannady.

It was noted as “British Black Town” by the historian S. Muthiah, because Mylapore was the Black Town of the Dutch settlement of San Thome. It stretched to today’s NSC Bose Road and south Broadway areas. This Black Town was the shadow of the Fort came to be known as Chennapatnam and in due course of time grew into George Town. He further says the village Madarasapatnam nurtured by the English grew into a moderately large town.
C. S. Srinivasachari in his book writes, The European quarter soon came to be differentiated from the Indian town, which rose up to the north of the outer town fort. The Indian town grew up and came to be called as Black Town. He further described that the British settlement was divided into three parts i.e Inner Fort, Outer Fort and the Indian Town on the north protected by an earthen wall also pierced by gates.

Dr. Fryer, mentions the Indian Town (or) Native Town as “Heathen Town” only parted by a wide parade, which used for a bazaar or market place. It shows the Britishers placed the Indians at the lowest ebb.

He also mentions about the boundary of the Black Town or the native city, like the Christian Town was Quadrangular. Its boundaries were on the North, the present China Bazaar, on the south the inner north wall of modern Fort St. George, and the sea on the east, on the west a line parallel to the shore, extending from the end of Popham’s Broadway to a point near the present sally on the north west glacis, where it struck the course of the river, then divides into divers long streets and they are chequered by many transverse. There were Choultries, one exchange situated in the market place and a temple which was built by Timmanna. The whole of the Indian town was walled with mud buttressed bastions. To the west of the Indian town there flowed a drainage channel, down the line of the present Broadway and the across the present Esplanade which ran into the North river, to the west of the stream there was the Washerman’s town where in the company’s cloths were bleached. During the 17th Century it was a spacious suburb of the town proper and was strewn with shady gardens of the English merchants who liked to spent their leisure hours.

In the map of 1653, the Indian Town is shown with flat Houses. He further remarks the Indian traders of the town were mostly Gentoos (Telugus) forty moors having hardly co habitation with them. The natives were 30,000. The Tamils were called as Malabaris. Besides, other religious people also settled here.

The Spanish priest, Dominic Navarette (1678) and captain Dampire (1690) provided few remarks as on Black Town “adjacent to the fort, was a large town, the pyramids of the English tombs, house and gardens adjacent and the variety of fine tree’s scattered up and down”.48

According to Thomas Bowrey’s (1669) “the natives were mostly Gentues (Telugus) and Malabarís (Tamils) many of which live within the outmost walls of this place called Fort St. George. There were 40,000 men, women and children lived under St. George’s flag and pay custom for all sorts of goods they buy and sell”.49

Between the Outer Fort and Black Town there was a wide parade, the market place. In the year 1674 there were about 75 houses in Black Town.
In the year 1688 Lengle prepared a map it shows the Black Town had grown very fast, row and row of houses are marked, each separated by straight roads the entire planning in checker board style. The Elambore River flows towards its south and buildings and Gardens.

Thomas Salmon in 1699 recorded the following remarks on Black Town.

a) Portuguese, Indians, Armenians and a great variety of people inhabited.

b) It is built in the form of square, surrounded by a brick wall of 17ft thick.

c) The streets are wide, trees planted on either side.

d) Sea on one side, river on the other side.

e) Some houses were built in brick others in miserable cottages, which appears to be poverty.

f) Beyond the Black Town one gardens for half a mile together planted with mangoes, coconuts, guavas, oranges where every body had a liberty of walking and many purchase the most delicious fruits for a trifle.

H.D. Love, describes the Black Town as, “The Town is walled with mud and bulwarks for watch places for English peons, only on that side of the sea washes it and the Fort meets it on the North are two great Gates of Brick and one on the west where they wade over the River to Washerman’s town” while explaining some of the points, as there was no rampart on the east side and on south side of the native town, the north curtain of the outer fort rendered a rampart unnecessary. He has mentioned about two gates, The Tom clarke’s gate was opposite to the end of Popham’s Broadway and the Mud Point Gate was to Tombi (Tambu) Chetty Street.

The Western Gate was called Armenian Bridge Gate was situated to the present Fort Station of south Indian Railway. They river mentioned was a stream flowed down Popham’s Broadway and across the Present Esplanade to the North River, which has degenerated now. The washers Town has been the place where the company’s cotton cloth was bleached prior to export.

**BIFURCATION OF WHITE TOWN AND BLACK TOWN**

Major Puckle put forth certain questions in 1676 to the company and the following reply was given to him. Subsequently the settlement was divided into two as White Town and Black Town. He questioned, the English who were not in company’s service live in the inhabitations in the English or Black Towns, how they are qualified and what trade do they engage?

Why so many Portuguese were permitted to live in the English town and without paying rent and acknowledge their houses, while many English were necessitated to take house in the Black Town and pay for the same?
Yet another question was also raised as there is no services made and taken both towns with land belonging to them. Why they had built upon the company’s ground and why they had not maintained any register of the names of the tenants and inhabitants.

The following reply was given by the company. The Portuguese were invited by the several Agents from the time of their first settlement. Some of them accompanied the English from Armagon, some had lent money to build the fort, they also engaged in watching and warding troubles upon the out works. They never paid any rent or acknowledgement, not taken out any leases.

The Paddy ground paid 40 pagodas per annum. The Agent advertised several times the people who have gardened up and down the sands to take leases for their possession since the place was loose sand and flying sand scarce the people. On the whole it was the cause of or the sickness and mortality rendering the place very uncomfortable almost uninhabitable.

Subsequently, the town Madras had been divided into two separate quarters by the erection of walls and ramparts. So far it was called as Christian Town and Out Town or Gentoo Town. For the first time Major Puckle designated them as English white Town and Black Town.

The Paddy ground mentioned in the consultation lay between the suburbs of Muthialpetta and Peddanaickpetta to the north of the Black Town. The land was company’s property which concur with the territory shown on the Map of 1733.

**PITT AND BLACK TOWN (1698 – 1709 A.D)**

Governor Pitt governed Madarasapatnam from 1698 – 1709. His period of “rule proved to be the Golden Age of Madras in respect of the development of trade and increasing of wealth”. The earliest reliable map of modern Madras, was drawn in 1710 Map show on the orders of Governor, which reveals the topography of Madras viz., White Town and Black Town in the beginning of 18th Century.

The historian S. Muthiah has identified the city limits appears to be a Kuppam, just so with of the Fort, the Elambore River to its west, northern limit about 500 yards beyond Elephant Gate Street in George Town.

By the year 1700, the native town situated close to the north of the Fort was originally built in the form of a square, and covered a mile and half incircumference, adjacent to Fort St. George, the market is shown in the Map.

The earliest attempts to delimit the boundaries of Madras was by the construction of a wall by Ivie, between 1644 and 1648. Accordingly the rampart bounded north, part of west and south also. The northern wall ran from the sea along the present china Bazaar road to the end of Popham’s Broadway and the western rampart from this point
southward till it encountered the river. The south wall would be a short length traversing the south of Inner Fort. This part of the town which was bounded by the sea and the river was probably sufficiently protected by natural obstacles. The space included both the White and Black Town are shown in the Map of 1710 – 11. The suburbs to the north and west were Muthialpetta to the east of Broadway and Peddanaickenpetta to the west, which continued south down to the company’s Garden by the river.

The most important event that happened under Pitt were Permanent Fortification of Black Town. The acquisition of additional suburban villages by the English, a serious and violent disputes between the Right and Lift hand casts and a series of threats including an actual blockade, made by Daudkhan, the Nawab of Golconda.

Pitt ordered for a survey of the city with a view to allocation of definite streets and quarters for the Right and Lift hand factions.

In the Black Town one can see the Great pagoda in the middle and the burial place of the English in the north western corner i.e, in the Law College compound as well as the Bazaar.

Besides, the various gates in the walls of the Black Town in the north and west are seen led to the suburbs of Muthialpetta and Peddanaickenpetta. A canal run along the alignment of the present Broadway flowed into the North River near the present medical college field and it separated Black Town from Peddanaiken Petta.

In Muthialpetta, the burial place of the Armenians, and Portuguese which occupied the present Armenian church and Roman catholic cathederal as well as separate streets for Fishermen, Komatis, Chettis, Moors and others.

In Peddanaickenpetta there were several big streets like weavers street identified with the present Nyniappa Naicken Street, Washer’s Street identified with the Mint Street, River Street – present day China Bazaar Road.

The Island was then much larger than it is now since the North River ran much more than east starting from the west gate of the Outer Fort across the Island. The Island surrounded by a hedge of thorny bushes, he improved the Island by embanking and drainage. This work was ensured in the year 1705 and the garden was acquired by weavers for building purposes. It was much larger than before and contained Pitt’s Avenue. The position of Mint is shown in the map which was transpired in 1711.

Old Black Town was more than a mile and half in circumference and its wall was 17 feet thick and there were canals running along its northern and western sides. The prospect of the whole city from the sea was most delightful and the great variety of the fine buildings that greatly overlook its faults afforded an in expressible satisfaction to the eye of the traveller.
Besides the description given by C. S. Srinivasachari, one can observe from the map several gardens in Comerpettah and Peddanaicke Pettah. To its west flows Elambore River, on the east the canal of Pedda flows, beneath the canal, the Queen’s point, the Bridge gate and cucold point, are shown, which lies to the west of old Black Town.56

In Muthialpet, the Moore burying places is shown on the extreme end, and a Hindu Temple, the coco garden, the plantain garden. Besides the gardens the Fishers Street, Church Street and another street are also shown in the map.

In the Island region there were long and small gardens are shown. The company’s garden is located on the north west side of Elambore River.

The map of Thomas Pitt clearly demarcated the Fort St. George, the old Black Town, its suburbs Peddanaickenpettah, Comerpettah and Muthialpettah. The larger Island is noticed. There was no fortification in the beginning. In another discussion it is said that Black Town was entirely surrounded by a wall on north which ran up to sea. The following places were located and enlisted in the map as Comerpettah – Peddanaickenpettah – Muthialpettah old Black Town – White Town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remarks in the Comer Pete Town</th>
<th>Remarks in the Black Town and Muthialpetta</th>
<th>Remarks in the White Town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Pagans Burying Place</td>
<td>m) Armenian Church</td>
<td>a) Governors House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Jews Burying Place</td>
<td>n) Bridge Street</td>
<td>b) Store House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Watching Street</td>
<td>o) Clarks Gate</td>
<td>c) Guard House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Buckleys Garden</td>
<td>p) English Burying Place</td>
<td>d) New Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Weavers Street</td>
<td>q) Plate Street</td>
<td>e) Carpenters yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Elambore Street</td>
<td>r) Herb Market</td>
<td>f) The Mint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Pete Naigues Street</td>
<td>s) Great Pagoda</td>
<td>g) English Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Great Buzar</td>
<td>t) Armenian Burying Place</td>
<td>h) Town hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Buzar Street</td>
<td>u) Portugez Burying Place</td>
<td>i) Portugeze Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k) River Street</td>
<td>w) Middle Gate Street</td>
<td>k) Choultry Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l) Elephant Street</td>
<td>x) Chitee Street</td>
<td>l) Middle Gate street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>y) Moors Street</td>
<td>m) James Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>z) Comatee Street</td>
<td>n) Charles Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Malbar Street</td>
<td>o) Church Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Chitee Street</td>
<td>p) St. Thomas Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) Fisher Street</td>
<td>q) The Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4) Moors Burying Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The canal of Pedda separates the Peddanaickenpettah otherwise called Comerpetetta, lies on the west side and Muthialpetta, where in we find the company’s First
Garden on the north eastern corner of Muthialpettah, Four brother’s Garden, John Garden and a temple is also located and identified in the map.\textsuperscript{57}

The Map of 1710 shows the limits of the city \textit{kuppam} lies to the south of the fort, the Elambore River flows to its west. The northern most boundary of Peddanaickpetta was Elephant Street, which extended beyond 200 yards. The eastern boundary was the sea represented by Roads of Madras with ship. It is to be noted here that the sea was close to the Fort and there was very little of the beach.

There is a little suburb to the south of the White Town inhabited only by the black watermen and the fishermen. Beyond the Black Town are gardens for a half mile together planted with mangoes, coconuts, guavas and orange trees. It is to be noted here that the map bears every indication that it was drawn with accurate survey, than the earlier maps.

Yet another map has been drawn in the same year, 1710. In this map one can see (a) Fort St. George showing the Governor’s house with in the fort (b) St. Mary’s church (c) Roman catholic church, later on it was destroyed. (See Map)

Old Black Town is shown in the map, lies immediately adjacent to White Town and it is the site of Esplanade. At the middle of the old Black Town the Great pagoda is shown and also the English burying place.

Muthialpet became New Black Town, where in one can see, the burying places of the Armenians and Portuguese, to its west lies Manuccis Garden. In this Map Peddanaickenpetta is missing and the new name George Town is noted down in the remarks. Likewise the name White Town had disappeared and came to be known as Fort St. George.

It is to be noted here until 1715 the passage between Island with fort was crossed by boat. In order to reduce the difficulty the Island bridge was erected in 1715. The garden bridge was built on 21\textsuperscript{st} July 1718 across the Elambore river near the garden house. It carried the direct road from Triplicane to the south of Peddanaickenpetta and it was rebuilt in 1720.

\textbf{BLACK TOWN AND DAUD KHAN}

The Nawab Daud Khan made inroads into south and visited Madras in 1699, the English sent presents to him through Nicolo Maucci and he felt the presents sent to him was not sufficient and sent a threat that he would appoint separate Governor for Black Town and would develop San Thome at the expense of Madras. The council remained quiet.

Again in July 1701, Daudkhan reappeared and he decided to accept the presents, but he changed his mind and blockade the city and stopped all goods going in and out. The inhabitants began to fled to other parts. The blockade extended to the coast finally,
the English agreed to pay 25000 rupees and he returned all plundered goods. in 1706 and 1708 he reappeared and demanded 1000 bottles of liquor but the council resolved to send him 250 and two large mastiffs. One of the consequence of the blockade of Daudkhan was acquiring "five new villages" A farman was granted, as free gift with effect from the 5th October 1708. Tiruvorriyur was one of the village received through this grant, which lies to the north of Royapuram and Black Town.

FORTIFICATION OF OLD BLACK TOWN

The English decided to have a permanent fortification of old Black Town with a strong rampart equipped with guns and flanking works, which was in consequence of Nawab’s intrusion and the quarrel between the Right and Left Hand castes occurred in the year 1707. On 26th June 1707, the council recorded a dispute between the two divisions, arising about the passing of processions through some streets on the occasions of their weddings. He resolved to survey the Pettas and to indicate the respective streets where the two factions mainly lived.

Finally it was resolved to exchange 500 houses between the two factions and final agreement provided that certain streets in Peddanaickpetta should be reserved for Left Hand people. But C.S. Srinivasachari concluded that the places mentioned in the document are yet to be identified.

It was Thomas Pitt, built a brick wall around the town, regularly fortified with bastions and outworks and mounted with artillery. The author C. S. Srinivasachari quotes that the author Dalton had confused a Petta with Street. The Muthialpetta and Peddanaickpetta where the homes of the Right and left hand communities were located.

TOLLBOY’S WHELERS MAP OF 1733 (MAP NO.4)

Tollboy’s Wheeler drawn out a Map in 1733, which provides more information on the surrounding village. It indicated the extension of northern boundary by 1500 yards including Peddanaickenpettah and Muthialpettah.

This map was drawn by the orders of the Governor Morton Pitt. It shows the whole coast extending from Triplicane to Ennore and also the Inland country. It was reproduced by with places marked it under the title Madras in 1733. In this map the out batteries of the Pettahs, the chief suburban village, the chief gardens and the principal streets of the white and Black town of Triplicane, Peddanaickpettah and Muthialpettah are given.

The various batteries of the defence of the Black Town like Colastri Chetty’s battery, Calway Chetty battery, Balla Chetty’s battery Gongarama’s battery Badriah battery are all marked and these were connected together by a bound hedge of prickly pear and thorn bushes.
Moors metta is also marked in the Map the outermost limits of the city in 1733. The western portion of Muthialpetta and a good portion of Peddanaickenpettah continued to be occupied by the garden houses of the Europeans.

It indicates the village boundaries viz., Muthialpetta, Pedda Naiguepettah the Choultry plain. The author compared the map of 1710 with that of 1733 and he found that the Washers petta has developed into Pitt Avenue which is omitted in the map.

The place Comerpetta has disappeared. But we find salt pans and the Brick kilns on the west bank of Elambore River. The space of Island got shrinked. Thus, the fort was half of its size in 1733 than today. It is remarked that the territory of Madras remained the same as in 1639, there was an addition of Narimedu (or) Hog hill.

In 1734, the Governor Morton Pitt received proposals for building a Weavers Town immediately adjacent to Black Town. This town was built in the land of Sunka Rama, when he lost his post and trade, the land was taken away by the company. The garden which was flanked by Cooum on one side and Periamet on the other was resumed and the company settled several hundred families of spinners weavers, painters, washers and dyers along with Brahmans, dancing woman and other necessary attendances of the pagoda (Temple)This village was called Chintadripettah.

THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF MADRAS (1746 – 49 A. D) (Map. 5)

The French occupied Madras for about three years from 1746 to 1749. They also had drawn out map in the year 1746 dated 21st September. The map shows the extent of the city. The fort St. George is shown as extended on the west side, the old Black Town is located on the north side, the Peddanaickenpettah and Muthial Pettah name is not inscribed in the legend of the map. The Island portion had shrinked to a certain extent. Many ships are anchored on the sea. In this map the Hospital erected by the French, the powder mill and the old Black Town destroyed by them are shown.

The same map drawn out in the year 1746 shows the legend written in French language on the left side and the important parts of the region are marked in the map itself. Many new buildings have cropped up on the west of Fort St. George.

On the whole four different sets of maps have been produced by the French during the occupation of La.Bourdannais. In one map the date is given as 21st September 1746 and in another 22nd September 1746. But there is no difference shown between these two maps. Yet another map drawn out with the title “The plan of Madras on the Coromandel”.

THE MAP OF 1750 (MAP NO. 6)

This map probably would have been drawn out in the year 1750. one can see the enlarged fort St. George, it looks like a Trapezium, the old Black Town is no more and it
was destroyed by the French during their siege. The High court and the Law college have replaced the old Black Town. The Armenian Church and Roman Catholic Church is shown in Muthialpet region. The Popham Broadway Road is also depicted the map. Besides, the River Cooum was diverted in order to provide large space and ground. The sea has receded and the southern Railways line is also seen in the map.\(^{64}\)

**CONRADI’S MAP OF 1755**

After the siege of Madras by the French a new survey was made in the year 1755 (Map No.7) (*Map not enclosed) and a new Map was produced. It shows the transition from ancient to modern Madras. A graphic description about this Map is given by H. D.Love,\(^{65}\) Kurien\(^{66}\) and Dr. S. Muthiah.\(^{67}\)

The North River has cut a new channel for itself across the Island and it is passed by foot Bridge. The former course is dammed up at the either end of white town. Smith’s ditch formed the western boundary. Casa Major’s house, old powder Factory and other buildings on the Island have disappeared.

As far as new Black town is concerned, the company’s Garden house in Peddanaiken Pettah had vanished only a small portion remained. The Garden bridge survives the first encloses the whole Peddanaikenpetta and Muthialpetta.

In the White town the Fort square remained the same. On its north side are Grand Magazine, Artillery Park, Barracks and Half Moon Battery remained in the same place. The sea Gate colonnade was removed by the French a new statue of Goddess of commerce was erected.

The portion of Black Town destroyed by French extended to a distance of 400 yards from the rampart of white town and of the buildings were levelled by the invader. However, the Great Perumal temple remained in the same place.

In Muthialpettah the new Roman Catholic and Armenian churches were shown in the positions formerly occupied by their cemeteries. This area is still called as Armenian Street. It is to be noted here that the church projection extended beyond the southern boundary line of Muthialpettah. During Maratha incursion the Cemeteries were destroyed, and in this place Esplanade was created. Between the two Pettahs was an open space containing gardens and a portion of the company’s paddy fields.

In Peddanickenpettah, the Hospital occupies a position 350 yards west south west of Armenian Bridge of old Black Town. John Periras and Empsons garden houses are marked with different names in the map. The Allingal’s temple marked in Thomas Pitt’s map is shown as “Egam Isprah Pagoda” It is identified with the present day Ekambareswara temple in Mint Street. The Jewish cemetery has been reduced. Much of the northern part of the Pettah and north western portion is occupied by cultivable lands.
The Choultry Gate and Bilklns Tomb have been fixed as standard point to identify the other place.

Dr. S. Muthiah in his book remarked about the map as the southern boundary is arbitrary, merely a line about a distance of 1000 yards from the Cooum mouth. The Elambore River is still the western boundary of Madras. Only the northern boundary remained static. According to 1750 statistics there were 8700 houses. By the year 1755, only a portion of Triplicane has become a part of the city. Now Peddanaikenpetta has ceased to be the fashionable European quarter.\textsuperscript{68}

In 1772, a survey of the city fixed the limit of the Esplanade with six boundary stones Four of these stones remain at Parry’s corner, Kondai Chetty Street, Stringer Street, and Badrian Street announcing in black stone the Esplanade’s boundary as of January 1, 1773 Lord Pigot was the Governor of Madras at that time.\textsuperscript{69}

In the year 1775, it was proposed that a bound hedge be planted right around the limits of Madras beginning from San Thome in the South, covering Adayar River, Morse Choultry, Long Tank round Chetpet and Vepery and thence continued to the sea at about and Vepery and thence continued to the sea at about a mile distant from the northern wall of Black Town.

The limits of Madras were fixed on November 2, 1798 Accordingly, the southern limit was fixed at saint Thome River, the northern limit extended up to Tondiarpet. On the west it extended beyond Chetput, Kilpakkam, Perambore and Tondiarpet.\textsuperscript{70}

Black Town, the present day George Town possessed almost the same limits as at the present day rampart on the north and west are indicated. The west wall of Black Town was skirted by a defensible tract of ground half a mile wide providing field for fire. There was no highway along the sea front. The first and second line beach road were non existent. Along the sea shore there was no high way. As the British acquired the suburban villages the Peddanaickanpetta lost its popularity and Triplicane rose in favour as a residential quarter.

There was no remarkable change between the years 1798 and 1822. A plan of the Town limits was surveyed in 1822 for the use of justice in sessions by Raven Shaw.

C. S. Srinivasachari had recorded the following remarks on the Black Town as existed in the year 1855. “The BlackTown has comprehended with in the walls lies very low, in some places below the level of sea. The Town was protected by stone bulwark. The broad roads – streets intersect the town, running north and south dividing it into four equal parts. The houses are well built and contain many terraced upper roomed dwellings. Among the buildings are the principal European shops, Pachaiyappa’s Native School, the commissariat office, the Jail, the Black Town Male and Female school, Church mission Chapel Black Town Church, Wesleyan Chapel, Free Church Mission House”.\textsuperscript{71}
The minor streets chiefly occupied by the natives are numerous irregular and of various dimensions. Many of them are extremely narrow and ill ventilated. The form of these houses resembles that of most of the Native dwelling throughout India it is a hollow – square, the rooms opening into a courtyard in the centre, which is entered by one door from the street. This effectually secures the privacy so much desiderated by the Natives, but at the same time prevents proper ventilation and is the source of many disease. The streets with few exceptions, have drains on both sides which are deep and narrow. Besides, there are three common sewers running from the earthen part of the town towards the sea. The system of drainage is far from perfect and falls to the sea very slight.

The map drawn in the year 1862, (Map No.7a, 7b) depicts the developed settlement of Madras Presidency. It gives the name of 16 important places (see opposite page) and the major areas viz., The Fort, the Esplanade, the Island Ground, the Hindu burial Ground, Seven wells, The Mint and Royapuram.

Another map has been produced in the year 1901, \(^{72}\) (Map No.8) the Peddanaikenpetta and Muthailpettah are not shown in the map. Tondiarpett and Fort St. George is clearly mentioned. The important places shown in the map are the Royapuram Monegar Choultry, Customs House, General Post Office, Madras Bank and High Court.

The name of New Black Town has been changed to George Town in memory of the visit of his Majesty King George V when prince of wales visited in the year 1906.\(^{73}\)

After the expansion of territory, of Madras this map has been drawn out in the year 1921 in which the name Peddanaikenpetta, Muthialpetta and Black Town has disappeared. In the place of Peddanaikenpettah the new name George Town has been used. Three important streets are shown in the map viz., the Wall Tax Road, Mint Street, Popham Broadway. The newly created Harbour is also shown in the Map.

Yet another map drawn in the year 1921 is enclosed here (Map No.8a) shows the extent of the *erstwhile* Black Town and the present George Town. On the Beach Road the Bank, the General post office, the Beach station, Royapuram Railway terminus and the Harbour is shown, on the north the Robinson park, the model Paracharry, Monegar Choultry are spotted in the map. The cochrane canal flows on its north west side. The Basin Bridge, Goods shed and peoples park are shown on the west and on the south the Memorial Hall, General Hospital and Pachaiappa’s Hall are located. In the Esplanade region the High court Buildings and the Madras Christian College are marked. Besides, the first line Beach Road is also shown in the map.\(^{74}\)

In this map (Map 7b) the old and New Black Town is shown in compartments. The Northern extreme is divided into three parts such as Pedda Naickenpet, Mannady, Muthialpet. On the southern extreme the Park Town and the Sowcarpet is shown in between Park Town and Peddanaickenpettah. The important Roads shown in the
drawings is the V. O. C. Road, on the north west Basin Bridge Road, old Jail Road and Ebrahim Saheb Street. On the east the North Beach line connects the Esplanade and the Royapuram. Important Temple are spotted in respective place of the map.75

**FORTIFICATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOWN WALL**

As it has already been discussed the Black Town which lay between Fort St. George and George Town. The Chennai Kuppam embraced the land occupied *Muthialpetta* and *Pagodal Petta*, Muthialpetta meaning “Pearl Town” and “Pagodal Petta” which means “Coral Town”. This was the merchant street, located in the North East portion of present Muthialpetta.76

The bastion alluded to must have been one of the three defended the sea face of the White Town. During the administration period of Aaron Baker there was no discrimination between the white and Black Town. The record discriminates only between the Fort and Town. The houses of the Europeans were erected nearest the fort, while the natives built their inhabitants to the northward, but no wall existed between the two quarters. Baker’s allocation of the Portuguese church and to the space before the west curtain of the fort Ivie’s earthen part covered the north and west sides of the native quarter of the town, which would thus be sufficiently protected. Bakers bastion was the work which was known as *Fishing point* or *Gloucester point*. It marked the north-east angle of the White Town.

Old Black town was first unfortified, subsequently it was walled with mud with due gates of brick opening into the White Town. From time proposals were made to build a masonry rampart in place of mud walls, but it was only Governor Thomas Pitt who built brick wall around the town, regularly fortified with bastions and outworks and mounted with artillery.

Miburumla, the Mughals made settlement with the Governor Thomas Chamber. On December 1656. The terms were not observed as a consequence in 1657, the Mughalsblockade Madras for seven month with occasional fighting. In 1658 an important agreement was made accordingly the English were to be left undisturbed control of Fort and Town on payment to the Nawab an annual sum of 380 pagodas, *in lieu* half customs.77

The hostile incursion of Moslems demonstrated the value of the Madras fortification and proved an incentive to their development. As a consequence, the English on the Coromandel coast have fortified the Town of Madarasapatnam. They have raised the wall around the castle. The Nawab threatened to attack the town on the ground that English lent assistance to the Nawab of Carnatic in his war against the Mughals. The wall enclosed partly the European town. The Dutch recorded the information.78

The army of Golconda encamped near Madras in 1659 and 1661. The Agent Chamber wrote to the company that Madras was weakly manned and they have only 5 or 6 armies within the compass. Nekhnam khan laid siege of the town in 1662 chamber
wrote to the company that San Thome was lost 10 days ago and the company’s Fort is threatened and he also promised he would defend the fort.

**DUTCH ATTACK AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSE**

Among the earliest settlers of Fort St. George was Thomas Clarke, son of a former Agent at Masulipatnam of the same name. He built a house in the year 1641 which lay just outside the town wall which was subsequently erected. In 1673, when a Dutch attack was anticipated the house was demolished to clear the ground for fire. Clarke was employed as Portuguese translators and he made a petition for a compensation. He quoted that he was the first inhabitant settled here on the invitation of the then Agent. The house was built 34 years before. The bulwark was not erected from that time onwards. The damage caused was assessed to 130 pagodas. It was also pointed out he did not pay ground rent and it was disbursed by Casa Verona. The proposed assessment was opposed by the council and it dropped the claim. It was proposed to levy tax on the people and demanded to pay 2 fanams per house. They gathered in a temple and blocked the provisions coming into the town.

But Clarke in 1677 demanded an increase of salary for the post he held for 9 years. Finally he was allowed 3 pagodas per month out of the Choultry income. Further he acquired a house and garden in Muthialpettah at the southern end of the street, now called *Popham’s Broadway*. A gate in the city rampart opposite to this residence was known as *Tom Clarke’s Gate*. It is to be noted here the entire Black Town was surrounded by a wall which ran up to the sea.

During Streynsham Master’s Governorship, in 1678, the Mahratta ruler Sivajee’s forces appeared at Conjeevaram and the improvement of the fortification on the north front of the Christian Town was undertaken. Difficulties arose with Lingappa, Governor of Poonamallee and Conjeevaram regarding the importation of provisions and control of Triplicane. Lingappa’s unreasonable demands were stoutly opposed and a force of militia was embodied for the defence of Madras. Part of company’s Garden in Black Town was handed over to the inhabitants and a new garden was established in Peddanaickeppettah. In 1677, the Garrison was increased due to the incursion of Maratha army.

In general conclusion, Ivie built the rampart defending the whole town first and afterwards the native quarter. Greenhill were concerned in the construction of the outer fort. There were about 5 gates belonging to the Town and the peons to stand in the chief streets to prevent evasion of customs dues. According to Fryer in 1673, there were only three gates. In Blake’s order the word apply to the entire city to which Fryer assigns 6 gates. Of the six gates the *water gate* or sea gate in the north curtain or dividing wall
between the European and Native quarter. It must have been constructed when the town was walled by Greenhill.\(^{82}\)

*Ttwo gates* and *Sally ports* to for enter into Madras, while in the native town, which is walled with mud, were “*Two great Gates of Bricke*” one on the north and the other on the west, which leads to Washermens’s Town. The west Gate was also called as “Bridge Gate”

Like wise the *Middle Gate* and *Choultry Gate* in the north curtain of the outer Fort, gave access to Middle Street and Choultry Street, the north and south thorough fares of *Native Town*. The *Mud Point Gate* terminated into middle street and easy access from the Choultry Gate. The passers from the Muthialpetta would have used this thoroughfare in northern rampart wall.

The last one was the *Tom Clarke’s Gate* built in north west angle of the native town. H.D. Love explains that a drainage channel bounded the town on its west side nor the Elampore. He also identified the *Mud Point Gate* opened on the present *China Bazaar*, opposite *Tambu Chetty Street*. *Tom Clark’s Gate* opened on the present China Bazar opposite to Popham’s Broadway. By the year 1669, the Christian Town had been completely walled, by the Governor Winter.\(^{83}\)

**FRENCH INVASION**

During Governorship of Lanhorne, the French commander seized the ship of English vessel Ruby at San Thome in the year 1672. The seizure caused some irritation among the residents of Fort St. George. A league from San Thome had established a blockade and were preventing the importation of provisions. A force was sent out to repulse them, but it was harassed by cavalry during its return to the town. On 24\(^{th}\) August, 1672 the French appeared in the suburbs and set fire to detached houses. The first siege was successful. The second siege was made in the year 1673, and the blockade extended up to Madarasapatnam.

Langhorne requested the Dutch Engineers to pull down the fortification of San Thome, finally it was done in the year 1675. Due to lack of provisions the Dutch and the French were driven away. On 21\(^{st}\) April a terrific cyclone occurred. The French were drove south of Adyar and became total wreck. The Dutch ships were also washed ashore.

Langhorne applied for the fortification which was neglected by his predecessors. He was also dissatisfied with the ruler of Golconda they did not stop French capture of San Thome. Meanwhile, Langhorne made vigorous efforts to improve the fortification of Madras and he describes the situation graphically about the weakness of the fort wall.\(^{84}\)

**STREYNSHAM MASTER (1678 – 81 A. D)**

Streynsham Master as part of his administration, he took initiative to collect ground rent from the inhabitants of Madras and the levy of tax for conservancy. The first royal
Farman in 1674, confirmed all the ancient privileges, that the company considered they possessed adequate authority to impose taxes other than customs. They wrote to Fort St. George for an explanation whether they had any right on quit rent. They were also very courteous it would increase their rent by the king of Golconda.

The first attempt of conservancy was made in 1676 by S. Master. The council resolved to impose a house tax for the purpose, and to create the office of ‘Scavenger’ ultimately the Scavenger combined with his primary function the duties of the ‘Rentall General’ officer collecting the ground rents and for nearly a century the appointment was held by a Civil Servant.85

MASTER’S VISIT TO TIRUVATORE (THIRUVORRIYUR)

In 1679, Master undertook two tours of Inspection 1st tour extending from 11th March to 2nd May. His Diary reveals the following information. In the morning about 6 o’Clock, he arrived at Truvorriyur and stayed there until 4 o’Clock, all the Councils and company’s servants met the Agent, one of the Company’s free Guard met him at Purusotham Garden. He was by the side of pagoda in the Gentoo Town. The Purusotham Garden was located near Muthialpettah and Purusothem, was the interpreter at the Choultry about in the year 1654 A.D.86

GYFFORD AND BLACK TOWN 1681 – 1687 A. D

Gyfford was succeeded by S. Master paid attention to the development of the defences of the Black Town. He undertook inspection from 8th August 1684 to 26th of January 1685. Thomas Pitt acted as Interposer. Gyfford suffered by the interference of independent merchant captains known as ‘Interlopers’

During the Governorship of Gyfford, he received orders to increase revenues of the settlement and improve the defence of the Black Town. But when the people protested on this occasion, he was not able to remit the tax and gave way to the demands of the Musalman Governor of Poonamalle.87

Gyfford decided to be watchful, because he expected the Mughal army towards the south. He deemed it necessary to prepare Madras to withstand the possible siege by the Mughals. He decided to repair the walls and the gateways and lay in stores of grain and large quantity of freshwater with in the fort to the west of the citadel.

William Richardson and five others were put in charge of company’s fortification and company’s buildings orders were immediately issued for rebuilding the north curtain wall of the White Town.88

1. It is absolute necessary that the curtain next to the Gentoo town, from the Caldera point by the river side to the Fishers Point by the sea.
2. It is necessary to rebuild a Bastion called the Fishers point, and also build a new wall stronger and Higher than the old one, at such places where it is wanting from the fishers point a longest the sea side to St. Thomas point.

3. Two gates at the side next the Gentoo Town being too narrow and little, and also the gate at the sea side being all little and straight for the passage of people goods and cattle and Gate houses too little for lodging for the Guards constantly there kept and the said Gate houses being gone to decay.

Orders were immediately issued for rebuilding the north curtain wall of the white Town and few weeks later the reconstruction of the Fishing point was undertaken.

In 1681, the unfriendly Lingappa formulated some fresh unreasonable demands sent through Krishnappa from Conjeevaram. It was declined by the British. Information was received about the earthen defences of the Black Town. The name Malabar Town is now changed as Gentu Town, thus marking the increasing number of Tamil inhabitants.

In Christian Town, there were about 6 posts guarded by men and 8 posts mentioned in Malabar Town. i.e., Corner Bulwark, the Bridge Gate, the Bridge Bastion Cape Bulwark, Garden Gate, Faucon Bastion, The Chitty Gate and The Sea Bulwark.

The four bastion of White Town have been renamed, as St. Thomas Bulwark, Charles Bulwark, St. Peter’s Bulwarks, Caldera point is not given and James Bulwark is on the east point.

Likewise, the Black Town post points were enumerated explained below.

1. The corner Bulwark, a work near the river bank at the South and western rampart of Black Town.
2. The Bridge bastion, a work near the middle of the western rampart.
3. Cape Bulwark, the bastion at the north west angle of the Black Town.
4. The garden gate near the Burial ground and Company’s Town garden, called Tom Clarke’s gate.
5. The Fulcon Bastion, a work in the middle of the northern rampart defended by one or more small guns of the kind known as falcons.
6. The Chittiy gate the large brick gate house at the north end of Middle Gate Street. This was opposite the entrance to Comatee Street in Muthialpetta. It had no gate facing it.

The sea Bulwark, a work at the sea end of the north face of the Black Town. It was also called the north face of the Black Town. It was also called as New Point.

When Lingappa was blockading Madras and threatening active hostilities, the Portuguese Militia was called out, while the native inhabitants offered to raise a corps at
their own expense. 215 men for the defence of the Town. The Malabarins also came and offered 150 men for the defence of the Town and washers 25 men. It was accepted and arms were delivered to them.

FORTIFICATION AND BUILDINGS

The encroachment of the sea aroused the need in 1682 for the Safety of the fortification on the eastern front of the White Town. The sea eroded the wall and foundation of the town, and the great bulwark, it was felt that the wall would be demolished within a artificers and coolies were employed to protect the wall. However, a portion of the bastion wall fell. In the year 1683 Gyfford provided for the defence of the gap by the river between the end of the western rampart of Black Town and Caldera Point.

The curtain wall next the Bulwark and St. Thome this point being almost finished which completes the sea wall, It was ordered that two small watch houses, large enough for four guns, be built at the outer parts of the Town, next the river side and Bridge, which will be greatly form the safe guard of the Town and security of the Customs’. Here, the Bridge identified which crossed the drainage channel bounding the west side of the Town.91

A second disaster happened at the end of the year, part of the wall was damaged, rest in a dangerous condition. It was hoped the sea will retire in a few days.

The Home authorities directed that the defences of Black Town should be made permanent by substituting a rampart reviled with masonry for the old earthen bank. It was not executed till the beginning of the 19th century.

The consultation gives the following information

“They consider the convenience or inconvenience of admitting rich Merchants to 80 to out Fort as free merchants. They also resolved to have black town of Madras walled round and Competently fortified at the charge of the inhabitants, whatever their opinion may be full charge may be levied from the inhabitants as one found, respective to their houses, which will be worth 3 times what they are now”92

The Company Ordered the walling round the Gentoo Town and appointed Mr. John Little Ton in the year 1682 take care of collecting the money to be raised on each house towards the construction of wall and building old garden ground. The work remained incomplete of the interference.93

The Moghul forces were besieging, urgent orders were issued for the manufacture of bricks and collection of materials. In 1687 a new Battery was commenced in the middle of the Western front of the White Town and stop any hostile advance across the Island and flank the Caldera and Round bastions. The British expected a possible siege of
Madras by the Mughals. The following instructions were given to Mr. Thomas Wavell, the paymaster, Mr. John Cheney the storekeeper.

1. To build Caldeira point with Battlements, men may stand by the Guns.
2. New platforms to be built at sea side and river side to get all materials.
3. To take care of Ports, secured by double door iron bars, bolts and locks. Inlets to be covered by brick and the walls of the Christian Town and the River be cleared away.
4. Iron wood (or) Red stone to be collected and stored on top of the fort to fling down by ladders.
5. Remove powder from powder house to the Godowns under the contains next St. Thome, and brick them up for more safety.
6. Tank was taken inside the fort to store fresh water.94

Inspection was made of the defences for which the captains ships and other experienced men were to go along the walls and points to observe the defence, and assess what else is necessary for safeguarding the Garrison.

**CYCLONE**

Cyclone occurred in the following years 1640, 1662, 1668 and 1674. The next cyclone occurred in the year 1648. Violent storm hit Madras for more than Seven hours, with ruinous effects. It killed several, damaged many houses, walls and Trees. There was no building in the Town. Frame of the windows and Doors flew away. However, the fort wall was not affected by the storm. The out town was mostly affected by the weather. Large boats in the river broke and blown shattered to pieces.

Again in the year 1687 and 1695 the cyclone occurred. Black Town and pettahs were totally damaged. The place became uninhabitable without repair and 1/10 of the trees in the garden was beaten down to the ground. There was no ship in the road. The Armenian ship was driven out of sea.95

**ELI HU YALE AND FORTIFICATION OF BLACK TOWN**

Regarding Black Town, the Gate points and streets must be regulated, which was advised to the Chief Gentoo inhabitants. Peddanaikpetta was called as suburb of White Town. The link between Garden House and Fort was a bridge which crossed the drainage channel and west of Black town, constructed prior to 1677.

The “Bridge Gate” was probably a reconstruction of the ‘West Gate’ and the old Gate house mentioned by Fryer. The “Bridge River Point” situated at the junction of the drainage channel with the Elambore River, was ordered in 1684 to be built as a ‘Water House’ with four House. By the year 1687, eastern bastion with 6 to 8 guns was constructed. It was now developed into a permanent work, known as “Queen’s Point”.
The council wrote to the company, the necessity for raising the new fortification, which is of great defence for clearing the river bridge and the part of the town, and also the Powder house and other two branches of the river with bastions, which is named Queens Point in honour to Her Majesty.

When the Mughal forces were approaching Yale proposed to remake Black Town rampart with the help of Little Ton and Cheney. Mr. Wavell considered that fortification in the native city might be the offence against White Town. It was opposed by Mr. Fraser, they were against the use of earth. The cost of the work must be reimbursed by the Governor, said by Mr. Gray. However, Yale ordered the paymaster to complete the work at the earliest possible. Mr. Wavell, Cheney and Fraser were unsatisfied with the decision of Yale and recorded the following statement.

“We are less satisfied with our presidents building and making trenches round the Black Town at our charge, which we did never order to be done but at the charge of the inhabitants and the President did often promise it should be so; just as to do the company right in this matter or pay the charge himself, it being a thing done.”

A survey of the fortification was conducted in April 1693, revealed numerous signs of decency. The Inner fort shows crack on the walls. Among the outworks, the Round point and Queen’s point had been damaged by the sea. These three bastions were strengthened by piling their foundations with red wood. Subsequently, a survey was also made along the river wall from Charles point to Gloucester point. Several unauthorised passage had been made through the river were stopped and the wall was built up.

In 1695, when the French fleet approached a laterite gun platform was laid before the Sea Gate. The Principal inhabitants and senior merchant’s house were affected by sea. It also affected the walls of the Fort about 100 houses were encroached by the sea, and ground may be allotted for building their houses. The Governor visited the place and allotted ground to various caste people viz., Cattamaran men, coolys, palanquin boys, Gun Room Laskars, a few Pariars also lived in this place, but they were ordered to move to the parriar Town.

Several English and Portuguese Houses were destroyed by sea. Twenty Pariar Houses were mixed with the soldiers houses. The carpenter and Bricklayer were ordered to value the said houses. The sea continued to wash away sea Gate Platform. By the middle of the year, the sea washed away platform of the sea Gate. There was no passage for coolies and they used St. Thomas Gate.

When Zulfikarkhan sieged Gingee, the English residents were summoned to White Town. Certain arrangements were made for the defence of the Town.
A SURVEY OF BLACK TOWN WALL

Sir John Goldsborough inspected the rampart and viewed the mud points made by Yale, appears to be worn out, ruined and washed away by the rains, altogether it was useless and there was no defence.

As per the Factory Records, “The mud walls round about the Black Town, by the late rains broken into several gaps, which gives free passage into Black Town in the night and it was resolved to repair the same to prevent theft into the Black Town, which daily flock from adjacent places and create fear of the Marattas.”

On 19th December 1695, the inhabitants between the Bridge and Queen’s point having made use of the ground between their houses and the old mud wall for houses, gardens, which was left for the rounds to pass in the night and it was ordered that a new wall be built a little further and walk between their Houses and the new walls and all the inhabitants do pay all the charges proportionately.

After two years, it was resolved to strengthen the defence of Black Town and dismantle the bastions. The bastions are referred to as Trivotturer, Attipollam, and Cundore mud points and the River Spur. The four points have been identified with.

- Trivatore : The easternmost bastion of the north wall.
- Attipollam : The bastion by Mud Point Gate.
- Cundore point: Work at the North west angle (or) Middle of the west angle.
- River Spur : Old bastion adjacent to Queen’s point.

According to the consultation, The four bastions were to be demolished and clay to be used for the strengthening of the mud walls and raising a step at the basis of the inside to a height and breadth as may be convenient for using small arms.

In 1697, the decision to build Black Town rampart in masonry was reaffirmed. A letter dated 1st July 1696, provides the information that the Scavenger’s duty be received by Mr. Foquett, the Rental general and accounted and remitted into the Company’s cash and the produce paid unto the Mayor for building the brick wall round the Town.

GARRISON REGULATIONS

There were several Robberys and Burgalries within walls and in the Black Town and Pettas. For the prevention of burglary the soldiers of the Garrison should not walk out of the walls of Christian Town and Black Town and should carry arms.

The Taliars should beat Tom Tom through Black Town at eleven o’clock at night, after which if any person, European, Moor, Mustee or Gentue found walking in the street, the Taliars and company’s peons could seize the person and carry him to next guard, if his explanation is not satisfactory, he would be detained. If any soldier found to be drunk, he shall be committed to the Cock House and kept for 3 days, fed with Rice and water.
HIGGINSON AND BLACK TOWN

The walls of the Black Town had also to be strengthened owing to unceasing troubles with Mughal officers, the old bastions of it had to be dismantled, but the curtain walls had to be reinforced and rendered fit for the use of musketry along the line. The fortification was put in order and the Black Town rampart was repaired. Regulations were framed as policing the city.99

SIR THOMAS PITT AND BLACK TOWN

During Pitt’s administration little was done for the fortification of White Town, but permanent fortification of Black Town was taken. The work was began in the year 1700 and completed in 1707. This work was undertaken due to the blockade of the Nawab Daud Khan. The work consisted of a rampart 17 feet thick, faced on both. The total length of the wall was 1500 yards, and possessed flanking at intervals, it extended along north and west sides of the town, like the old earthen wall, on the south side it was necessary to connect the line with the defences of the white town.

In the year 1699, the Governor called on the military officers for a detailed report on the state of black town defences. The following report was submitted to the Governor. He pointed out the weakness of the Black Town because it is exposed to sea. The land of Queen’s point had to be repaired and cased with bricks. The parapets had to be paved and made capable of bearing cannon and a guard house had to be constructed for security purpose.

The curtain had to be raised with brick from mud point to Queen’s Point at the north end of the Ditch. Likewise, the curtain from Mud Point to the Bridge Gate to he raised and the ground had to be raised.

On 10th May 1699, a meeting was held to discuss the issue with the chief of several caste met at the Fort and discussed with the Governor and council by raising a tax for building a brick wall round the Black Town. The work was carried out under the head of “The Black Town wall and works” and the paymaster was put in charge of construction.

The Governor and council surveyed Attapollam gate in Black Town. It required clearing both sides and for the defence of the Gate. To get the materials they required money, which had to be disbursed from collected and levied, for that purpose.100

The Governor and council, at the request of the Gentoo caste, disbursed money out of company’s cash towards fortifying the Black Town, which should be repaired by General tax on themselves. But nothing came into effect. However, a part of the work was completed. It tends to the security and advantage of the inhabitants. They expected each caste should contribute voluntarily for fortification. This circular was written in Gentoo language and was translated and distributed for raising money for the constructed Black Town wall.
Till the year 1705 they could not advance the paymaster, contributions by the inhabitants, by they conducted several futile meeting in temple about how to raise money. In 1706 when the fortification were nearing the completion, the Governor and council assumed the responsibility of assessing the caste, their wealth and numerical strength.

On 6th July 1706, the Governor and council summoned them to know their opinion as how to reimburse the money to the company, but as usual they pleaded about their poverty. So, the Government prepared a proposal for about Eight thousand pagodas assessment of the caste. The paper was given to the caste head and provided sufficient time to appear before the council.101

The following table shows the Assessment proposed by the Governor and council to be raised to pay for the erection of the Black Town wall and works.102

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABIL NO. 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portuzeug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chittee cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moormen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quomitee cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vellom war cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellejee war cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganlewar cast, alias oylemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gellawaunee war cast, alise shopkeepers of sugar and Limes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggamoodee caste, alias Brickmakers, &amp; c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comsala war cast, alias Gold Smiths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guzaratts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiculla war cast, alias weavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charnom war cast, alias conicoplyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polliawarr Cast, alias Doctor Lewis cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salliawarr, weavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoningeewarr, alias washermen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanalawarr, alias washermen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gullawarr cast, alias Shepeards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chombodduwarr cast, alias fishermen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyawarr cast, alias Bamboe cooleys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongelewarr cast, alias Barbars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vellambilla, alias Tonnapas cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connadu, alias Grass cutters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above list shows the next to Portuguese, the Chetty Caste formed a considerable section of population. The pot makers community was very less in number. However, the native people showed their resistance and they never convened any meeting. The Natives humbly requested the government assessment was too high, further they said they have contributed twice for the construction, and their trade was also declining, where in they requested to grant an order to relieve them from paying the tax. The works should have been completed in the of year 1707. In 1711, it was decided that the “Fleet Point” which was built before the agreement for the construction of the wall should be charged to the head of Fort St. George. This bastion which was situated at the eastern extremity of the north rampart of Black Town, was constructed earlier in the year 1700.

**SALOMAN’S DESCRIPTION ABOUT BLACK TOWN**

Thomas Salomon graphically described the condition of Madras. In which the status of Black Town, from 1679 to 1704, is given below. “The northward, adjoining the white town stands a much larger, called the Black Town, where the Portuguese, Indians, Armenians and a great variety of other people inhabit. This is built in the from of a square, and is better than a mile and half in circumference, being surrounded with a brick wall seventeen feet thick, with bastions at proper distances, after the modern way of fortification; it has also a river on the west and the sea on the east; and to the northward a canal is cut from the river to the sea, which serves for a moat on that side so that Madras, considering where it stands, might now be reckoned a town of strength it the garrison was answerable to the fortifications; but it consists of no more than three companies of fourscore of a hundred men each, and one third of these Topazes or Portuguese Indians. The company indeed entertain two or three hundred of native Black in their service, and a body of men may be founded out of the inhabitants, who are very numerous but these would be of little service against an European enemy, or even against the Mogul’s troops if there was occasion for them beyond their own walls. The streets of the Black Town are wide, and trees planted in some of them, and having the sea on one side and a river on the other, there are few towns so pleasantly situated or are better supplied, but except
some few brick houses the rest are miserable cottages, built with clay and not so much as a window to be seen on the outside, or any furniture within, except the better sort of Madras are of the same materials, and built usually in one from, that is, with a little square in the middle, from whence they receive all their light but I must say, notwithstanding all this appearance of poverty, I never was in a place where wealth plentiful about twenty years ago”.104

In the explanatory note, he noted the perimeter of Black Town was about 3000 yards but the length of the wall did not exceed a mile. An irrigation channel bounded Black Town on the west. The Elambore River was further west, beyond Peddanaikanpettah. There was an irrigation channel existed between Muthialpettah and Peddanaickenpettah which was in the heart of George Town.105

Peddanaikenpettah possessed an alternative designation of Comerpettah. The name has been derived from the potters who formerly exercised their craft on the river bank near the company’s new Gardens. The name Comerpettah has been transfigured and identified as Kosapettah, which lies to the west of Peddanaikenpettah. The temple in washing street was built by Alligal Pillai later on it was called as Ekambaareswara Temple. The washing street is now called as Mint Street. The Jews burial yard is also spotted in Peddanaikenpettah.

Edward Bulkley’s tomb is found at the edge of the present western Esplanade of Fort St. George opposite to Medical College grounds. But now it has been dismantled and not found here.

He further pointed about Hog hill, it was an exaggerated indication of raising ground in Peddanaikenpetta.

**DISORDERS OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE PETTAHS**

There was a complaint made to the Governor by the Black inhabitants, on the soldiers, who were in disorder during night. The Governor made new regulation to prevent their getting without the walls. The Pallisodes at mud points were so rotten and people go in dark. It was point to block house for 150 ft. so that they prevent anybody going out without the knowledge of the guard.106

In 1717, the Nawab Sadatullah Khan refused to restore the five villages which was granted by the Mughal ruler. Governor Collet decided to take those villages by force. On 23rd September 1717, Collet took possession of the village. The Nawab of Arcot announced, if the village is not restored to Dayaram, Madras would be blockaded. On 18th October Dayaram Captured Tiruvorriyur. But the British forces captured it immediately and Dayaram was driven away. This incident led to strengthening the out guard and patrol Washer Town and Tondiarpet to prevent enemy plunder of the site. The villages were given to SunkaRuma, the chief merchant and others to guard it.
Now, the Governor noticed the defenceless nature of Black Town. He ordered for a survey of the land, for the construction of a defensive wall. They assessed the work would cost 2400 pagodas. He felt it was necessary for the security of the town. In the map of 1733, it shows the existence of six batteries. Budria’s Battery, Gungurama, Suncurama, Ballachetty and Calway Chetties battery. The sixth and the original design was added on the west side of Peddanaikan petta. An Assessment for the construction of the wall. It was ordered the expenditure had to be borne by the inhabitants.

The Bridge Gate in Black town was under repair, which located near the Armenian Church. Besides, a new bridge was built to connect Peddanaickpetta with the Island, at a cost of 1400 pagodas. The natives voluntarily contributed 1000 pagodas. This structure was known as Garden Bridge and it is shown in the map of 1733.

Collet encouraged the immigration of weavers and painters to Trivatore. The settlers built a town on the south side named it Collet Petta, which consisted of 104 houses, 10 shops, and a temple 489 adult inhabited the village. They were exempted from paying Quit Rent for 3 years.

Dakkan Ray, the minister of Sadadullah khan appeared at San Thome. He and his general visited White Town on 12th February 1719. He was accommodated with a House in the Black Town during the day and he returned to San Thome in the evening.

On the northern rampart wall there was a gap on the eastern side. The native made a complaint about its undependable condition. The Directors advised them to use Palmyra hedge for northern boundary of the Pettahs. Finally the work was completed in the year 1739.

**HEAVY FLOODS – BRIDGE IN BLACK TOWN**

Heavy floods, in 1720 and 1721 did serious damage to several of the Madras bridges, and all five of them underwent either repair or reconstruction at this period. The oldest was Armenian Gate Bridge, spanning the drainage channel and connecting Black Town with Peddanaikan petta. In 1677 this bridge was referred to as New bridge. It was rebuilt in 1724. It was also called as Bridge Gate, Bridge Foot Gate or Armenian Gate.

**GARDEN BRIDGE**

This bridge was built in 1718 across the Elambore River near the Company’s Garden House. It carried the direct road from Triplicane and south to Peddanaikan petta. The bridge was destroyed by the floods of 1720 and rebuilt at a cost of pago 2500. The structure was removed subsequent to the siege of Madras in 1759.
RECOVERY FOR BRIDGE REPAIR

The president informs the Board that he has convened several meetings of the castes on account of the company’s disbursements for building and repairs of the Bridges. “The president therefore told them further that the money must be raised among the Black Inhabitants, the white people being but very few in number, and having but little or no advantage from them upon which they desired week’s time more to consider it, which he granted, at the same time letting them know that if they did not make a voluntary contribution amongst themselves, he must raise it upon them according to a method formerly made use of an Account of the choultrys which were built for the security of the black town”. The people pleaded about their poverty and loss due to flood and to exempt them from paying the cost.

MACRAE - BLACK TOWN WALL REPAIR

Macrae commenced his rule by placing by the fortifications and buildings in good order. In the Black Town repair was done to the rampart from the Round Point to Tom Clark’s Gate and from Tom Clarke’s Gate to the Fleet Point, as well as to the Black House by the sea. As to the outwards, the five new Choultries and Black House were reported to be in good order.

As a point of fact there existed several prisons attached to the three courts of Justice and the records of Macrae’s period permit of their location being approximately assigned. In 1729 the land customer reported that some of the choultry prisons are out of repair. To this place of confinement offenders were committed by the choultry court, and they were guarded by the Peddanaigue’s Talliers. The prisons appear to have been adjacent to the court in the Choultry Street of Black Town.

Other works undertaken were the clearance of 14 tanks used by the Washers of the Company’s cloth in Peddanaickpetta and a constructions of a drainage channel from Choultry Gate to the river. Messrs. Turner and Emmerson, who dealt with the eastern half of the Black Town from Choultry Street to the sea, as well as all ground south of the white town.

BLACK TOWN HOUSES

Messers Turnier and Emmerson dealt with eastern half of Black Town from Choultry street to the sea. It was left unaltered Messrs. Fowke and Hubbard examined the western half of the Black Town from Choultry street to the rampart, together with Muthialpetta and the long stretch of garden ground adjacent to it. They enumerated 628 houses in the city and 1405 in the Pettah. Among the inhabitants of the suburb were carpenters, peons and coolys, and Great numbers of Beggars and Braminies who live in straw huts on the sand upon charity. There were twenty six gardens ‘to the northward, of this Muthialpettah, two were under cowle, viz. Maria Pois’s which pays pags 70, and the
company’s Garden pags. 351 per annum. The horticultural area inspected, which included the gardens of Com Chittee (Kama Chetti) and China Mootah (Chinnaiya Mutt) extended along the Pulicat road to Addison’s Garden then the property of Sunku Rama on one side and Narrain’s Garden on the other. These were probably near the line of the Choultries.

Mr. Samuel Hyde submitted the remaining report, his Colleague, Mr. David pyot, being dead. Hyde’s division comprised the large western suburb of Peddanaikan pettah. In raising the assessment by about pagodas.85, the Surveyor spoke emphatically of the filthy condition of the streets, the inadequacy of the conservancy arrangements the dangerous condition of the wells, and the numerous encroachments made on the public highways.

The amounts collected for the year were quit rent, pags.2,603 scavenger’s duty, pags, 1,116. During the period reviewed, the Rental general had sold the ground of certain inhabitants who were in arrear with dues. Particulars are given of their property, the following names of the streets in the Black Town and Pettahs.

Black Town : Colloway Chetty, Choultry, Le Fountain, Seravenna, Kistnama,Mundapa [Streets]

Mottal Pettah : Collastry, Bagalake, Fleet Point, Parsmulla, sea Side [Streets]

Peddenagues Pettah: Badria, Sundaramim, Gangaram, Baal Chitty, Braminy, Sheverama, Juggamulla, Nullamuttely, Tombee Chitty, Nanapa, Weavers [Streets]

Europeans also had houses in the Black Town. Richard. Horden had a house at Choultry Street in Black Town.111

BLACK TOWN WALL REPAIRS (Fig. No. 4)

A survey of fortification was made in 1732 by a committee consisting Major Roach. Augustus Burton and Franscis Rosus. The object of the survey was to repair the defence wall. The committee submitted the report with an estimate of 3243 pagodas. But certain errors have been found in the map.112

The Survey was first made with the head of their castes, who want Repairing. The following points required repairs.


A wall to be made from the Black house westward to the sea side point, 420 foot long 6 foot high, and 1 ½ broad, which formerly was railed but now it is quite down. The sea side point and Gunners Lodgings. The curtain from the sea side point to Mootall Petta
Gate, a 480 foot long and 18 high. Mootallpettah Gate, the peons mettow and Guard. The curtain from Mootal Pettah Gate to Tondavoodoo point to the west – ward 9 1020 foot long and 18 high. From Tondavoodoo Point to Tom Clarks Gate and Guard house to the westward. From Tom Clarks Gate to point 200 foot long and 18 foot high, to the westward, and a small powder house. The curtain from Peer point to middle point to the westward 560 foot long and 18 high. Middle Gate Guard and Gunners Guard house. From middle point curtain to the Armenian Gate 550 foot long and 18 foot high, turning to the southward. Armenian Gate and small Choultry for the peons. Armenian Gate Bridge to the petta. The curtain from Armenian Gate to Queens point, 660 foot long and 18 high to the southward. Queens Point Guard and Gunners Guard. From Queens point to the white town, a wall of 300 foot long and 18 high towards Eastward. The coopers house and yard. Likewise repair work of White Town and detached work is enlisted, some of the names have been changed from Thomas Pitt’s Map.

IMAM SAHIB AND BLACK TOWN

After the murder of Murtaza Ali, son of Saadatullah khan, proclaimed a boy named Sahib Jadda Nawab and Muhammad Said as the ruler. Due ceremony was conducted in the Garden House a great procession was conducted to and back to his residence in Black Town.

On the receipt, in Imam sahib’s warning of Maratha preparations, the president and council, made an inspection of the fortifications. In Black Town they found a gap of 100 yards in the wall between Caldera point and Queen’s point, and noted that the opening of 60 yards between new point and the Black house, about which there had been discussion in 1722, had still to be made good. Orders were given to build up these breaches and remove obstructions. The Maratha invasion took place in 1740. It was found that the garrison was insufficient to man the out ports. The wet ditch on the north and west faces of Black Town, from queen’s point round to the sea, having become choked up. Its re excavation was put in hand. On the walls and bastions of the white and Black Towns were mounted upwards of 200 guns, but the force to serve them was miserably inadequate, the Gunner’s crew not being above one man to two guns.113

When the Marathas made their second incursions at the end of 1740 along with the English, Civilians, the Portuguese and Armenians were called to take up arms. The council resolved to clear a field of fire 200 yards wide on the west and north sides of the Black Town, and to carry a rampart along its eastern face.

A consultation was conducted about the fortification and the number of men required to defend them. The present condition of Black Town was very unsafe. For which some houses and gardens were to be pulled down, for two hundred yards. Fence ought to be erected for the present towards the sea.114
The Ditch from the North West to the North East point of the Black Town 2080ft long 40 broad and 12 to 20ft deep. It was built of brick in day to present the sides from falling down. On the East side of the Black Town, which was wholly exposed, a new foundations of a wall, designed to be ten feet thick, from the north East point to fishing point, being to thousand four hundred and fifty seven feet. The wall is carried uptotwelve feet high and six feet thick two thirds of the way, on which there is a parapet to be raised, and one of the two bastions, in it is completed, and sixteen Guns mounted, which will secure that side.

JOHN PEREIRA’S GARDEN IN PEDDANAIKPETTA

The Garden called John Friers and the Company’s little Garden commonly called Maira pois’s, were allotted for building purposes to the four hundred inhabitants who had been dispossessed of their dwellings by the formation of the clearing round Black Town. In October, 1742 the paymaster was directed to set up six stone pillars to the northward and westward of the Black Town at the extent of six hundred feet from the walls to prevent any encroachment.

The company’s little Garden, lately Maria Pois’s, was in 1741, handed over for building purposes to those inhabitants whose dwelling had been demolished to make the clearing round Black Town. This clearing, 200 yards wide, must have involved the demolition of Manuccis house, besides sweeping away a mass of buildings of the south end of Muthialpetta. The map of 1755 shows that the walls of the Armenian and Portuguese burying grounds escaped destruction. The powder mill built in 1738 must be regarded as the fourth erected in Madras. The earliest was situated in old Black Town. While the other three were in different parts of the Island.

In the year 1742, a proposal was prepared, and the Heads of castes offered 3500 pagodas to be spend on the improvement of Black Town and Repair of Bridges Benyon considered it as a good the losses. The Moors have been in the Town the streets have become exceedingly dirty and filthy and that the Bridges are much worn out of repair by the Hackeries and other carriages passing constantly over them.

Mr. Joseph Smith was sent to attend a meeting to give report on the state of Fortifications. The company wanted to know which part of the fort needs immediate attention. He suggested that to build a bomb proof magazine in the convenient part of White Town for strong general store of powder. The island was too far to keep the Guns and magazines. He preferred White Town for storage.

The spot selected for the new magazine was the open space between the Portuguese church and north wall of the inner fort. The building, which was completed by December, 1745 measured 70 feet by 40 feet externally had walls and roof 10 feet
thick, and was surrounded by an outer wall at 20 feet distance this magazine existed until the nineteenth century.

**DESIGNS FOR BLACK TOWN**

A careful design was made in June 1745 accordingly, the advantages of the other are to allow a good space for the necessary buildings for the service of the Garrison as well as to erect many others and be a very considerable addition to the Town. It will be compact and separate from Black Town and thereby much stronger and defensible. Fortifying the west side of the White Town, the state of the country and other circumstance make it highly requisite they should be complete as soon as possible.

**THE FRENCH AND BLACK TOWN**

During the Governorship of Morse, the French laid siege on Black Town. On 3rd September 1746 De La Bourdannais landed his man at a distance in Peddannaikenpetta. Three French ships took their post in front of the Fort and cannonaded it from the firing, which lasted for two days on the 3rd day the English and garrison capitulated. The English with drawn the guards for the defence.

Thus the Fort St. George, Town of Madras with their dependencies on 10th September 1746, at 2 o’clock in the afternoon was surrendered to the French commander De la Boundannais and Madras became a possession of the French.

A Treaty of Ransom was signed on the night of the 12th September in which Dupleix stated that, on the fall of Madras, he had promised to deliver the place to the Nawab. De la Bourdononnais placed no faith, however, in the sincerity of Dupleix’s assurance, and hurried on the conferences with Moorse relating to the definitive treaty of ransom. On the 15th September the indemnity for both the white and Black Town was settled at pags. 1,100,000.

On hearing of French attack on Madras, the Nawab sent an urgent letter on 8th September, to deliver Madras to him. The French army declined the request and the Nawab approached Madras Barthelemy re-armed the walls of Black Town, and prepared to defend the place. The nawab’s troops, copying the French plan of attack, established themselves at Triplicane and Egmore fort, and afterwords took possession of the company’s Garden, where they mounted a battery. They then spread round to the northward, completely investing Madras. The force was joined by the Peddanaigue with his peons and a body of poligars. Barthelmew had orders from Pondicherry to remain on the defensive but when his water supply was cut off he found himself forced to Act. On the 22nd October, a sally was made by 400 men under De la Tour into Peddanaikpetta. The Moslems in that quarter were dispersed and their camp destroyed. Mafuz Khan retired to Egmore and next day to San Thome. Madras remained under the French for 3 years from 1746 – 49.
When the British resumed possession in 1749 under the treaty of Aix-la-chapelle, they found no great change in the white town, but about half the Black Town, the whole of its fortifications, and the company’s Garden House had been demolished. The destruction was ordered for the better security of the white town. A violent monsoon broke out which destroyed the French ships.

**EFFECTS OF FRENCH OCCUPATION**

On the 3rd November, 1746, Paradis reported that he had closed all the posterns of the white town, blocked one of the two gateways into the Black Town, and was about to blow up the Garden House. On the 26th January following, Espremenil, who had again become Governor, stated that the native quarters were being repopulated, and that he was issuing a proclamation to induce the return of the Tamil merchants. On the 20th July Dulaurens announced that the fortifications of the Black Town were completely levelled. Finally, on the recommendation of M. Samy, the Engineer officer in charge, all houses in the Black Town lying within 60 (400 yards) toises of the white town were razed to the ground. Certain additions were made to the fortifications of the white town.

**BLACK TOWN ATTACK BY FRENCH 1752**

The French Governor De la Bourdonnais judged that an assault on the Black Town would be successful, the subsequent storming of the white town might cause him heavy loss. These considerations made him willing to grant easy conditions in return for peaceable and immediate possession. How far the gift might have influenced the French commander when the definitive treaty was drawn up, it is not easy to decide.

After the end of the war, two drawings were prepared on the basis of the survey. The first, a survey by John Apperley, Engineer, engaged by Boscawen, dated the 28th August, 1749, shows the fortifications of the white town and the remains of the Black Town besides part of Peddanaikan pettah and the Island. It is not very accurate, the Burial ground and the Gentoo pagoda being undoubtedly misplaced. A French Burial – Ground is shown between the English cemetery and the Bridge Gate. The other plan, which depicts the fortifications and buildings of the white town on a larger scale, was drawn in September, following year. It is inscribed, “Received with Mr. Bickerstaffs Letter dated 17th May 1750.” The two drawings prove conclusively that the additions made to the fortifications by the French were limited to (a) glacis on the north and south front, (b) small bridge – head with glacis on the Island opposite the water Gate; (c) a slight realignment of those portions of the western wall which lay next to Charles and Gloucester points.

Madras remained as subordinate to Fort St. David until 6th April 1752. Robins proposals regarding Madras embraced the fortification of Muthialpetta and Peddanaickpetta, to which jointly the appellation, Black Town, was now transferred in
consequence of the demolition of the greater part of old Black Town. The nature of this comprehensive scheme will be understood by reference to Conradi’s Map of Madras of 1755. Robins design for the fortification of white town appears to have included the completion of Mr. Joseph Smith’s plan of extending the west front to the Island and diverting the course of the river.

After the recovery of Madras, Mr. Robins, was directed and empowered immediately to set about fortifying the Black Town at Madras without waiting for further orders from the company. Another effect was that the Armenians were asked to withdraw from the White Town after selling their houses to the European protestant merchants.122

Likewise, the French tried their best to induce many the Tamil merchants to comeback to it. But they failed in their attempt. After their rendition to the Brahmans did puja, coconut were broken, before the flag was hoisted, then an extra ordinary salute was fired from the fort and from the ships. When the English flag hoisted ten lakh of Tamils Muhammadans and Lubbais, pattanwaras, coolies and the people were joyful as though the fort and town belonged to each one of them.

ESPLANADE (Fig. No. 5)

After the war, one of the problem confronting Fort St. George was the settlement of a dispute between 420 Right and Left hand castes. The Right hand caste represented by Tulasinga Chetti desired that, “the Ground of such part of the Black Town as was levelled by the French might retain its former distinction of streets and the Left hand caste not suffered to pass over where the Right hand street had been. The houses of dancing girls, who resided at Kachali templepagoda street might be restored to the Brahmans. The Left hand represented by Neru Chinna and Viranna, wished to demolish the part of Black Town and make it a common ground, because they were unable to reach Choultry Gate without crossing Right hand Streets.123

Two years later the council resolved that the Esplanade which bounded the north and west sides of old Black Town should also be common to both castes. This strip, 200 yards wide, had been cleared of houses at the time of the threatened incursion of the Marathas and it was consequently known as the Maharatta Ground, or Maharatta Town.124

Mr. Morse drafted the resolutions accordingly

1. A road to be marked out of 40 feet broad, common to both parties, which shall run from Choultry Gate to the Sea Side.

2. It was decided that the dancing girls remain in the Kachali pagoda street in the houses which they had occupied for 20 years.

3. Two years later, the council resolved that the Esplanade which bounded on the north and west sides of old Black Town should be common to both castes. This strip of 200 yards was cleared at the time of Maratha incursion, consequently it was called as “Moratta Ground”
In consequence of the foreign occupation of Madras, the charter of George I, 1726 was recalled and new grant was made by George II on 8th January 1753.

THE FORTIFICATIONS

Prior to Colonel Scott’s arrival, Brohier made some progress at Fort St. George with the new faces towards the west as designed by Joseph Smith and approved by Robins. Writing on the 24th January, 1753, the Directors alluded to Brohier’s report and estimate of the 6th July, 1752, and desired that the execution of Robins’s general scheme should await Scott’s decision they added that, as the cost would be great, a reasonable assessment should be made on the inhabitants.125

It was resolved to construct the Black Town wall so as to be defensive to the country people and the entire new wall to the north side of Fort St. George, be done one hundred yards further out than the counterscarp of the present wall, which will greatly enlarge this place and at a small additional expense.

A letter was sent on 13th August 1753 for approval of the plan, Col. Scott did not approve of Mr. Robins Scheme of raising defensive wall in Black Town as there was no threat or attack on the inhabitants, and the expenditure on his Project is not worth. In April 1754 he exposed the misuse of materials and waste of money. He also advised not to purchase the materials publicly.

The house acquired, some of which possessed gardens, were twelve in number. They were mostly the property of Portuguese, and were situated near the middle of the Esplanade, opposite the existing ordnance Lines. They formed a block 100 yards in length, facing south east. The ground stood several feet higher than of the present day. The transfer was effected in 1753 The houses hired in the Pettah and intended for an Hospital being now refitted, ordered that they be appropriated for that use, and the present Hospital on the parade ground converted into Barracks; and that proper necessary’s, such as cotts, matts, be provided for the Recruits expected shortly to arrive.

MINT

The silver Mint in the northwest angle of the White Town appears to have been demolished in the course of the realignment by the French of a part of the western curtain adjacent to it. The paymaster reported as follows

“Agreeable to order of yesterday’s consultation, I have been with Linga Chitee who says that it is impossible to rebuild it there, for the French, by building a wall, have taken away great part of the Ground, so that there will not be room unless you take in the Horse stable he showed me a place at the foot of the Glacis near the company’s pagoda, which he thinks would be convenient for the purpose”126
NEW MINT(Fig. No. 6)

Saunders, on arrival, directed Starks and Smith to select a spot for a new Mint. They reported in favour of the original site, enlarged by taking in some godowns belonging to the estate of the late Petrus uscan. The stables were converted into a timber yard and established the Mint.

BLACK TOWN GARDEN HOUSE

The company’s Garden House in Peddanaikpetta has vanished from the Map of 1755 though part of the garden, remained. The Garden Bridge survives, from its northern end. The first, which encloses the whole of Peddanaickpetta and nearly Muthialpetta, striking the sea 540 yards south of the Bound Hedge, shows Robin’s scheme for fortifying the Pettahs with an intended rampart, consisting of extremely large flat bastions connected by short curtains. The second shows the more restricted line proposed by Brohier, whose bastions are smaller but curtains longer, and whose line meets the sea 1,140 yards south of the Bound Hedge. Neither scheme was ever carried out, a more extended one being substituted at a later date.127

The portion of old Black Town destroyed by the French extended to a distance of about 400 yards from the north rampart of the white town, so that less than one half of the area occupied by building was levelled by the invader. The great Gentoo Temple or Perumal pagoda, stood undisturbed.

In Muthialpettah, the new Roman catholic and Armenian churches, are shown in the positions formerly occupied by the Portugues and Armenian cemeteries. These sites in the thoroughfare now called Armenian Street are retained at the present day. It will be noticed that the church enclosures project beyond the southern boundary line of Muthialpetta. The projection is due to the old cemeteries having been spared when the demolition took place, at the time of the threatened Maratha incursion, which gave old Black Town and its esplanade. Further north, lies the great Kachaleswarar Temple is shown. Between the two Pettahs is an open space containing gardens and a portion of the company’s paddy fields.

THE WALAJA BRIDGE [NORTH RIVER]

The progress of the fortifications on the west front closed the channel of the river, which swept in a curve along the old curtain. As Smith’s ditch could not safely carry the freshes, Brohier in 1755 diverted the north or Elambore River into a passage across the Island, which had been cut by a flood five years before. The diversion is plainly shown in the map of 1755. The water Gate Bridge, constructed in 1714, remained until the old bed was levelled up; smith’s ditch was already traversed by both a foot – bridge and a causeway; and it now remained to throw a permanent work across the new diversion.128
Brohier put forward a new plan of three small bastions of the west front of the Fortification of the Pettahs. The southern most of the three western bastions was finished in 1756 and was afterwards called Nabob’s bastion in honour of Nawab Muhammad Ali. The two other were named after Major Lawrence and Pigot himself.

By 1757 the western front was considered defensible. The rising ground which faced the Fort on the northern bank of the North River was demolished. The hog hill was completely levelled only after several years by the direction of Sir Gen. Eyer Coote.

THE GOVERNMENT ASSENTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE FORT ST. GEORGE CONSULTATION

The company felt that it was unnecessary to construct a defensive wall for the inhabitants of Black Town, because they were more collected and require less garrison. The expenditure will also be lessened. Iftax are levied, it will lead to ill consequences. Hence, the project might be deferred.

FRENCH INVASION 1756

Rumours of impending war with France were the occasion in July, 1756, of the vigorous prosecution of the works. The southernmost of Smith’s three projected bastions appears to have been completed and provided with water tanks, and the other two were pressed on. Dr. Ives, who belonged to the squadron, arrived at this period from the fort St. David Governor Pigot’s active and spirit visit was encouraging and the work was progressive even in the hottest climate.

The Westside of the town was well secured, the southward was open and exposed to canon of three Bastions. So it would be difficult for an enemy to carry on approaches on that side. On the northwards, the houses of Black Town being with in less than 400 yards of outer walls, which was also very weak. On the whole the town was most in danger and exposed to attack by enemy.

It was ordered by the committee, the northern wall to be strengthened, for which proper plans had to be prepared.

The President lays before the committee two plans of works proposed by the Engineer for the defense of the North end of the Town, one of them being an outwork to be built upon the Glacis to cover the present fortifications, the other being a plan for thickening and enlarging the present curtain and bastions so as to bear a large additional number of cannon, and for making a covert way to the Glacis. Either of these would answer the desired end, but as the last will take up by for the least time, and the Engineer Judges that, with the number of four thousand cooleys, it may be completed in six weeks, it is ordered to be immediately set about; and the president is desired to write again to the Nabob to order cooley’s to be sent in from the Arcot Districts, and to the several renters and Polygars in the neighbourhood to furnish as many as possible.
The Assistant and Sub Engineers were deputed to involve in the construction of northern wall. Mr. Charles Noble and Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Leigh were responsible for the Engineering works. Mr. Brohier was given freehand to make use of the Engineers by the end of December 1756, the northern defence wall was completed.\textsuperscript{130}

**DEMOLITION OF HOUSES IN BLACK TOWN FOR RESERVOIR COMPENSATION ALLOTTED**

As recommended by Call in October, 1757, the Select Committee ordered the immediate demolition of all buildings in old Black Town standing within 400 yards of the covered way of the north front. They appointed a committee of compensation, consisting of George Pigot, John Smith, Charles Brohier, and John Call, to value the property. The committee reported that the houses destroyed were worth pagodas 180,000 but as the proprietors retained the materials and would receive a grant of land, a sum of Pagodas 18,150 was regarded as a suitable money equivalent.\textsuperscript{131} In September the committee of works assigned two plots of compensation – ground, and asked for power to take up compulsorily so much of it as was necessary to from regular streets. This power was granted, the freshly dispossessed owners being compensated by ground taken from the company’s old Garden or any other convenient place.

It was decided in the council the conduct of the defence to be carried out by the Governor, who was assisted by Col. Lawrence and other Assistance and he immediately issued order.

From these motions it appears to be the Enemy’s design to form immediately the siege of Madras, and the Board being of opinion that the necessary orders for conducting the Defence cannot, without great inconvenience and delay, be debated on and issued by the whole council, it is therefore unanimously agreed to leave the conduct of the Defence to the Governor, who, with Colonel Lawrence, is desired to take the Assistance of the other Field officers and the Engineer as often as many as may to requisite, and immediately to issue the necessary orders.

Lawrence’s force fell back from the mount to the Choultry Plain on the evening of the 10\textsuperscript{th} December, 1758, and camped ‘Near the Seapoy Choultry’. The following evening it occupied Dr. Turing’s house and the adjacent gardens on the Mount Road, a little south of the present Harris Bridge. On the 12\textsuperscript{th} the French Army under count Lally advanced to the choultry plain, cannonaded the British force, and drove in the detachments at San Thome and Egmore powder Mill. Lawrence retreated to the Island and thence to the Fort, leaving small bodies to guard the approach to the Black Town. The French encamped on the plain by Turing’s house and the Government Garden. Their force was estimated at 3,000 Europeans, horse and foot, 500 native cavalry, and 3,000 sepoys. The British garrison conserved of 1,758 Europeans and 2,220 sepoys. The European troops were thus composed.\textsuperscript{132}
On December 19th, the enemy appeared on the south – east angle of Muthialpettah, present day Parry’s corner, 200 yards south and the attack would be made on north east bastion.

All the Enemy’s European Horse were quartered in the street from the Elephants Garden to the small Portuguese church the Artillery people and stores in a Cross street to the westward of that Garden, their European soldiers in the different Streets of MuttalPetta from Tomby Chitty’s Pagoda to an old pagoda. Between Padre Thomas’s Garden and the sea side he saw a Mortar behind a heap of Rubbish of one of the House, were pulled down. However, there was no body in Peddanaigue’s Pettah except a small guard of seapoys posted at Audeapah’s Choultry in Gungaram’s Street. In the Black Town there were about one hundred Moors Horse which found in the Gardens on this side Padre Thomas’s. Jemal Sahib, the commander during midnight marched out of St. George’s Gate with 1000 sepoys through St. George’s Gate.

A spy reported that the French were endeavouring to bring two heavy guns over the old Bridge on the side of San Thome. Another stated that the enemy had some sepoys in Peddanaikpetta, ‘fifty in the Street leading from the Governor’s Fowle House, and 50 in the large Street further north called “Gungaram’s Street.”

**PROTECTION OF BLACK TOWN**

They accordingly, about ten o’ Clock, marched out at San Thomas’s Gate along the sand on the beach. At the same time a large body of seapoys, under the command of Jemal Saib, were paraded in the covered way of the west front, ready to attack St. George’s Gate over the Bridge leading to Peddanague’s Pettah to create a diversion.

A peon of the company reported the following information. Several defense work in Peddanaiguepettah have been completed. There was severe war in Black Town region. The French also created batteries to capture the Fort. The Governors and officers considered the situation was grave and decided to raise bastions parapets and Royal Bastion.

On 22th December the Chief Governor and Principal officers considered the situation was fire, which continued for several days against the enemy.

The following information was reported the peon on 22nd December. The French have completed a battery of four guns on the sea side.

1. From the battery up to Tombi Chetti’s House.
2. Behind the Old Ditch, a battery of six Guns was completed.
3. Brest work from Battery to Peddanaigues house to the burying ground.
4. From burying ground and battery was began.
Besides the above, a new work was began, but from the firing of fort five or 6 men were killed, so the French stopped the new work. The six Guns regiment of Lorraine lay in the Great Bazaar Street of Peddanaigupettah and Fisher’s Hussar and the rest of their horse were in the adjoining street.

The Indian soldiers of East India company were stationed near the Portuguese church and Cachelly temple. Lally’s regiment were in the Mellesar temple located in the North.

The British fired on the enemy for several days. Lally complained to Lord Pigot that his headquarters was attacked by the British, for which a truce was sent to Lally.

**MIGRATION**

The bombardment of the French continued till February 15th. Ladies were treated with less consideration. So the people started migrating on several camels and many cooleys passed from San Thome cross Egmore plain to the Black Town. Numbers of Cooleys were observed passing from the Black Town to the Southward, and the Intelligence reports that the French began to send away their things to Pondicherry.

**BLACK TOWN WAS SAVED**

The arrival of Sir Eyre Coote, however, hastened the enemy’s retreat, and doubtless saved the Black Town from destruction.

**DEATH OF PEDDA NAICK TAX WAS SUSPENDED**

The Peddanaigue, Madras, had died during the siege, it was resolved that his office, and the petty taxes levied for its support, be suspended till further orders. Sepoy Guards in the Black Town were substituted for the Poligar’s watchmen. Five years later the old plan was resumed, and ‘Koongoree Angrapah Naigue,’ son of the late Peddanaigue, was appointed Poligar.

**CONSTRUCTION OF OLD WESTERN WALL**

A proposal was submitted by Mr. Call for the construction of Western wall. The government ordered the removal of old Western wall, which passed through the middle of the fortress and extended up to Royal bastion on the North – West curtain. Call recommended for the demolition of the old mint bastion, but the government remained quiet about. It was completed with eight years which would cost pagodas 4 lakhs.

To prevent Mahrattas and protect the Black Town it was recommended to employ 100 tank diggers to plant bamboos, milk hedge, palmyras and thorny shrubs within few yards around Black Town, which would be sufficient security. The country troops or even goods or people could not pass without being seeing the guards or people could not pass without being seeing the guards. An expenditure of pagodas 200 to be spent monthly.
Call’s scheme embraced a principal thoroughfare running north and south, the space between it and the old town being reserved for new barracks, a hospital, mint, artillery park, magazine, and other buildings for the company. The remainder was divided by cross streets into blocks comprising sixteen large and as many smaller houses for European residents, but Call pointed out that, if Armenians, Portuguese, and others were permitted to live in the fort, a closer disposition would be necessary.

**INSTRUCTION TO NATIVES**

Eighteen months later Government informed the Committee of Works that, under ancient grants, ground was allotted ‘at the rate of 2 ½ Pagodas for 60 Gentue Feet, reckoning 115 Gentue to 100 English Feet, and they resolved to adhere to that rate. All buildings were to be constructed in a uniform manner; and persons receiving permits to erect upper – storied houses must build two Godowns in the lower part bomb proof. Government also ruled that ‘Armenian and other Foreign Merchants’ might build, subject to the decision of the Directors.

By the end of 1762, the Artillery Park and additions to the barracks were nearly finished, and the ‘Portuguese Square,’ as the site of St. Andrew’s Church was called, converted into civil quarters. The parade – ground was enlarged and improved.

After the fall of Pondicherry in 1761, the thirty – two stone pillars of the sea Gate Colonnade were brought back to Madras, and re – erected between the Sea Gate and inner Fort, Besides they also brought Timers, St.Mary’s Church, and a printing press.

After Lawrence’s departure, Brereton waiting for the arrival of the army Col. Sir.Eyre Coote. In 1759 he was appointed Lieut – Colonel of the 84th Regiment, which he brought to Madras in October of that year. He at once began a campaign which resulted in the battle of Wandiwash, fought on the 22nd January, 1760. In this decisive victory over Lally, Bussy was taken prisoner, and on the English side Brereton was killed. The French strongholds then fell in rapid succession until nothing remained but Pondicherry and the hill – Forts of Gingee.

**FORT ST. GEORGE TO THE COMPANY**

The British paid attention entirely to the preservation of the Fort and the Black Town, and for which purpose it was even necessary to arm all the Company’s Civil Servants, the European Inhabitants both of the White and Black Town, as well as the Armenians and Portuguese.

The next Campaign opened after a brief interval. The Nizam made peace with the Company, but Hyder pursued the war with varying fortune. The Madras Council interfered with the plans of Colonel Smith, who was superseded by Colonel Wood, but eventually reinstated. Early in 1769, Hyder offered to come to terms, but Brohier
vacillated and, while affecting to treat, directed Smith to threaten the enemy’s force. Hyder lured Smith to the Southward of Cuddalore, and then, causing the bulk of his own army to retire, himself with 6,000 cavalry made a forced march to the Mount, where he virtually dictated terms of peace.

**HYDER’S ATTACK ON BLACK TOWN**

‘In the afternoon, advice came that the Enemy’s horses were moving from San Thome round to the Northward with a Design, as was supposed, to make an attempt on the Black Town. A Detachment under Lt. Colonel Hart was ordered for its protection, and Major Bonjour was appointed to the Command of the Detachment sent to the Garden house, with Instruction to remove at Gun Fire to the foot of the new Bridge leading to the Island, and there to take post and be in readiness to succour any Part of the Black Town that might be attacked.137

Mr. Du Pre set out on the morning of the 30th, and met at the Marmalong Bridge by an escort, and conducted to Hyder’s camp, where terms were discussed. Returning to Madras in the evening, he met the Council, who deliberated for two days. They drew up the treaty on the 2nd April, and on the 3rd it was sealed by Hyder Ali. The document provided for an offensive and defensive alliance between Hyder and the Company, and for the mutual restitution of conquests.

Du Pre’s views on the peace concluded with Hyder are recorded in the following private letter to Orme:

The condition of the British became alarming, because they had provisions only for 15 days in the Black Town when peace was concluded. Hyder would have destroyed all the grain in stock and the Ground. A famine would have occurred. On the whole there would have great distress in this region.

Call retired from the service in 1770. Before his departure he gave his opinion on what remained to be done, in fortification notably the improvement of St. George’s Ravelin, and Black Town.

**FORTIFICATION OF BLACK TOWN**

The schemes of Robins and Brohier for the defence of the two pettahs which now constituted Black Town had long been shelved, and it was reserved for Call to put forward a proposal which, though more ambitious than either of them, was ultimately carried into effect. Call’s rampart covered the town on its north and west sides. On the north its alignment coincided with that of the old the west it followed the line of the North River. A beginning seems to have been made in 1764. When some earthen work was executed, and in the following year the old batteries were demolished by order of Government. Hyder Ali’s raid of 1767 emphasized the need of protection, but the defences were not undertaken in earnest till 1769.
The Council concurred generally, but remarked that, if a few bricklayers ‘were kept constantly at work in facing the Redoubts to the North of the black town, they would complete several of them in the course of the Year, and 300 Coolies and Tank Diggers might continue throwing up earth for the Rampart and forming the ditch, as well as planting shrubs.

As the Security of the Black Town is of the utmost Importance, since the entry of a Body of Horse into it, or even the approach of one, must necessarily be attended with the worst of consequences, It is therefore resolved that the bastions proposed by Mr. Call be erected and finished with all expenditure.

The rampart as constructed covered the north and west fronts of modern Black Town, and a portion of the south front. It consisted of seventeen bastions, connected by curtains averaging 300 yards in length. The line of the north face presented a slightly convex front towards Tandore. The alignment of the west face, which followed the North River, was nearly straight.

A detailed account of the execution of the project was written to the Governor. When the Bastions and Curtains were Completed and mounted with Cannon, and guarded with 2,000 Sepoys, no country enemy, even with heavy cannon, will be able to force it.138

CONSTRUCTION WORK BY PAUL BENFIELD

Call estimated that the work might be finished by the end of 1770 at a cost of Pags.150,000. Government approved the scheme as proposed. Tenders were called for, and Paul Benfield was the only applicant. He offered flat rates of Pags. 1 ¼ per cubic yard of brickwork, and 8 ½ fanams per cubic rod (64 cubic feet) of earthwork. With a slight modification these rates were accepted, and Benfield resigned his appointment as Engineer to become contractor. He began to work in June, 1769, with great energy, and by October the north front was well advanced.139 In the following March, Montresor reported great progress on the west front, and expected that the whole work would be nearly complete by the end of the year. Restrictive orders as to expenditure Produced a Pause in October, 1770. But the rampart was then nearly finished. The town gateways and the works outside the walls, not being part of the contract, were constructed by the Engineer. In May, 1772, the ditch was still unfinished, and little had been done to the intended glacis and covered way. The total expenditure to that time appears to have been about Pags. 164,000, some two – thirds of which was incurred under contract.140 In October, 1772, the Council wrote as follows.
FORT ST. GEORGE TO THE COMPANY BLACK TOWN WALL (Fig. No. 7)

‘No progress has been made in completing the wall round the Black Town. We think it already in a state sufficiently secure to prevent any insults from country enemies, and we shall shortly take into our consideration whether anything more shall be done to it than to carry the work down to the sea, instead of the Palisadoes which are at present placed there for the defence of that part of the Town.’

This great work involved the construction of three and a half miles of rampart. The western face was demolished about the middle of the nineteenth century, but portions of some of the bastions and curtains in the north front still remain to testify to the excellence of Benfield’s materials and workmanship.

MADRAS TOPOGRAPHY [AS FRENCH RECORD]

Among the plans and maps of Fort St. George and the town of Madras which are preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, is a survey, without date, of the city. The map shows the four old redoubts or choultries on the northern line of Black Town, but no trace of the new rampart. The choultries were doomed in 1765, but they may have survived until the rampart was undertaken in earnest in 1769. The Mint Bastion in the Fort, which was finished in 1764, is depicted in its later form; but the extension of the old north–east Bastion, which was completed in 1768, is not displayed. The survey must therefore have been made between 1764 and 1768. The two blocks of the Nawab’s palace at Chepauk, however, are illustrated, and as these could hardly have been finished not earlier than 1768, that year may be assigned to the map. This plan (or) map is not traceable now.

ESPLANADE BOUNDARY STONE (FIG NO.8)

In 1772 a Survey of the Madras Esplanade was prepared, showing some minor encroachments which had been made on the limits determined by Pigot and Call. Instructions were given to set up six boundary stones. Four of these stones may still be seen in China Bazar, viz., at Parry’s Corner, Kondi Chetti Street, Stringer Street, and Badriah Street. Each consists of a masonry obelisk about 15 feet in height. Built into square base is a tablet of black stone inscribed in raised letters ‘Boundary of the Esplanade, 1st January, 1773.’ An additional obelisk, without inscription, at the corner of Popham’s Broadway, was Probably erected later, when that thoroughfare came into being.

EXTENT OF NEW BLACK TOWN

During Macartney’s time the old Black Town was abandoned and the inhabitants were removed to Muthialpettah and Peddanaickenpettah which together came to be known as the New Black Town. There was a low lying region between these two Pettahs
known as Attapol lam along this ran a drainage channel which emptied itself into the North River. This channel was on the alignment of the present Broadway.  

Paul Benfield became the contractor for the buildings of the walls of New Black Town which extended for 3 ½ miles along the northern and western bounds of the Pettah and finished his work by the end of 1772.

Col. Ross wrote to the Government on the fortification of the Black Town. The defence of the Black Town untouched, if any enemy wanted to occupy Fort St. George, they would possess the Black Town, because it had more advantages. Hence, the defence on that part should be ensured by completing the ramparts parapets and banquets and forming an embrasures. Nothing had been permanent on the sea at North East angle. He suggested the temporary palisades should be kept in good repair, until permanent construction is done to it.

The Directors had refused to sanction that reform of the east face of Fort St. George which had been recommended by Ross with Clavering’s support. At the end of 1776 Colonel Stuart drew attention to the condition of this and other parts of the fortifications.

“The South East and North - East angle [s] at the extremity of the sea line require the most particular attention, and should be covered with such works as are capable of rendering sea line secure against surprize along the Beach. Indeed there is an absolute necessity to alter those parts, either in the manner proposed by Lieut. Colonel Ross, or by some capacious Work of simple construction that will effectually command and range the Beach, and flank the adjoining works. The Sea line is at present in such a state of ruin as to give a striking picture of bankruptcy and distress to every Stranger that sees it”

A sum of about pgs.12,000 was paid to Benfield on account of Black Town Wall in January, 1778. Compensation for 33 acres of ground taken up in 1769 for the rampart was given to the occupiers in 1776.

By the end of the year the whole west front was completed. At the south east angle 300 ft of sea wall had been built. Once again Col. Ross reminded of the work urgency of works, to protect north – east and south angles and reform the sea Line. He enclosed an estimate of Rs. 252,000/ But the government permitted only 12,000 per month.

In January, 1777, Colonel Ross submitted a review at great length of the development of the fortifications since he had been Chief Engineer, and he urged the importance of completing the whole scheme. Colonel Stuart was in favour of beginning the works designed for the protection of the north – east and south – east angles; and the Government, remarking that the expenditure during the last two years had been little more than pags.300,000, assented.
In 1778, Col. Ross handed over charge to Major Stevens. He submitted a review of Report. In July a detailed return was made of the cost of the new fortification down to the 31st July, 1778. Three – fourth of this work was executed under Benfield’s contracts.

Mr. Maclean was the surveyor of Black Town resigned his post and in his place Mr. Philip Stowey was appointed as chief architect, surveyor of Madras Presidency.

THE FORTIFICATIONS

The period of Rumbold’s government was one of activity in connexion with the fortifications. The south front was carried to completion, and the reform of the east line taken in hand. Major William Stevens, who was acting as Chief Engineer during Colonel Ross’s absence in England, reported in April, 1778, that good progress had been made with the bonnette and sea – wall. A furlong of the wall, built on wells, had been finished at the south end, and a somewhat greater length at the north end was in hand. Stevens recommended the inception of the central portion, and sanction was duly accorded.

News about the declaration of war between England and France reached Madras unofficially Stevens advocated the rapid completion of the counterguard at north east angle. The following suggestion was given with regard to the removal of obstructions round the fort.

MEMORANDUM BY MAJOR STEVENS

The North Esplanade should be cleared of all buildings and Lumber as far as the Coir Godown.

The Black Town Wall from the end of the Pettah bridge to the corner of the Hospital wall should be pulled down.

The buildings on hog hill are only from 230 to 250 Yards, or thereabout, from the foot of the Glacis of the N.W. Works. The houses ought, to be cleared to 400 Yards from the foot of the Glacis, and the ground so far levelled as not to admit of cover.

The huts, houses and the Horse stables at the foot of the Island Bridge were to be removed and everything on the Island as far back as the burying ground. The play house and powder platforms should be demolished. ‘The building on the South beach should be levelled, and all cover on that Front removed.’

The Select Committee approved generally of these recommendations, but considered that the construction of earthen redoubts might be deferred until attack became imminent. ‘The huts, Sheds, Horse Stables and Play house may at any time be demolished in a day or two. The only brick buildings which seen necessary to be destroyed are the Powder Platform on the Island, and a Choultry or Mettoo house standing in the Sea Beach midway between the Fort and the Nabob’s Gardens.’
FORT ST. GEORGE TO THE COMPANY

Early in 1779 the Select Committee approved the plan for the reconstruction of the east front with a range of cisterns beneath it. The new front, which was slightly in advance of the old wall, was to be built with an indented line to permit of flank defence, and it embraced a tenaillon at its centre. Two gates, one in each face of the middle salient of the tenaillon, replaced the old Sea Gate.148

Benfield’s name is commemorated in Madras by the designation of one of the Esplanade roads, and the west front of the fort is a standing monument of the soundness of his work as a contractor. But today, the Esplanade region has been utilised for Metro Railway scheme.

BLACK TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. William Ross, Registrar of the Choultry Court, drew attention in 1778 to the gradual absorption of the company’s land in Black Town.

All the Ground within the black Town wall originally belonged to the Company, and may now be distinguished under the following Heads, viz., Such as the Company have either sold or given a claim to such as the people, from long possession, have considered as their Inheritance and such as Individuals daily encroach upon under various pretences to the prejudice of the Company.

SALE OF COMPANY LAND

Government deferred consideration of this matter, and a year later the Committee of Works advised the sale by public auction of the company’s waste land in the town.149 The total area was some 664 Lots. More than half of it was in ‘Uttapollam’ the low-lying region situate between the two pettahs. Most of the remainder was along the seaside by the Rope Godown, water channel the ‘Paddy Godown’ There were, besides, smaller areas at ‘The Salt Pit Gate’ and in ‘John Pareira’s Garden. The Committee excluded from their list a piece of paddy – land in Muthialpetta, as a private claim to it had been preferred, but they believed that it was Company’s property.

The following places have been identified and explained by H. D. Love.

1. A Lot measured 60 feet by 40 feet, or 2,400 square feet. It was afterwards called a Ground.
2. Attapollam extended southward to China Bazar.
3. The Rope Godown or Coir Godown was at Parry’s corner, at the northern limit of the Esplanade.
4. This channel, now obliterated, ran eastward to the sea. The name is preserved in Odacal Street, which connects Moor Street with Jehangir Street at the north end of the present General post office. Now the channel is closed.
5. There were two Paddy Godowns, 500 yards apart – one north and the other south of the Water Channel. The former, on the site of the present Custom House, was used for the confinement of French prisoners after Munro’s capture of Pondicherry.

6. Salt Pit Gate – west side of Black Town wall, near the present salt cotaurs.

SALE OF LAND

For the Attapollam ground Mr. Stephen Popham had made an offer, but the Committee advised sale by public auction. The Government, however, accepted Popham’s proposal, which is detailed below. The ground on the beach was to be sold, excepting a length of 300 yards, which was to be reserved to the Sea customer for the landing of grain when high surf rendered the Sea Gate difficult of access. The Committee further proposed the grant to ‘Narrain Kistnama Naick’ and another of 75 Lots of land in Peddanaikpetta in compensation for a similar area which had been taken from them for the Power Mills and the enclosure of Bakers Wells.150

Stephen Popham, who had been trained as a solicitor, came out in the capacity of Secretary to Sir John Day, Advocate General of Bengal. Quarrelling with his patron, he established himself at Madras, where he became a notable character.

HOG HILL

The rising ground known as Hog Hill formed the south eastern portion of Peddanaikpetta. It was the spot which Sir William Langhorn marked as the site for a new Fort in the event of the old one being washed away by the sea. Representations had lately been made by Majors Stevens and Maule of the risk resulting from the proximity of Hog Hill to the Fort, partly from the elevation of the ground, slight though it was, partly from the cover which the buildings thereon would lend to an enemy. Difficulty, however, lay in dispossessing the house owners.

H. D. Love remarked that Gyfford, the governor provided for the defence of the gap by the river between western rampart of Black Town and caldera point. The construction of this wall was called as Wall Tax Road.

In the year 1775, the construction of Black Town rampart was determined, the government resolved to meet the cost by assessment of the inhabitants. It was decided the most reasonable and equitable way was to make an assessment on every House, Garden and spot of ground within the walls, according to the value and which would enable to ascertain the Quit Rent and Scavanger’s Duty. Mr. Marsden and Maclin or Maclean were instructed to survey of each street, the number of houses, Garden, and spot of Ground specifying the name of the proprietor and the value. The street name board should be kept in the corner of the street name should be written in English and Malabar.
Lieut. Marsolen prepared his report in December, he valued the 48 streets, alleys and lanes in Muthialpetta at pagodas 3,57,598 and 108 in peddanaikpetta. He also pointed out the encroachment in the streets and the defective drains.

The government remarked that the valuation was 1,028,000 pagodas. The resolved to advance the requisite funds from Treasury. It was also resolved that the present mode of collect of Quit Rent be abolished, and a tax 2% on the valuation of the Houses and Grounds. Based on the valuation, it can be levied for the first three years and 1% every year after words. The tax should be collected every six months and the register called "Collector of the Town wall tax". The collector’s was called before as "Rental General". But now as collector of the Fort Land. It was estimated the cost could be recollected within 12 years. Madras sent two suggestions to the council.

1. A piece of marshy ground running north and south through the Black Town, from the Pettah Bridge to the Bound hedge between Muthial petta and Peddanaick pettah, which serves as a receptacle for all the filth and nastiness of the Town their by becomes a nuisance to inhabitants. He proposed a canal of 40 ft broad and 6ft deep be cut from the Esplanade to south end Padre Thomas Garden. The water could be used for cultivation of Paddy Gardens.

2. After the completion of the wall, it is necessary to have a free and easy communication all around within the ramparts from the sea side and Hog hill and 50 ft space to be cleared for the passage.

After hearing the views of Montresor, the government decided to defer the drainage question till black town wall should be completed.

The west part of the wall was still called as wall tax road. The tax was never collected. In the year 1777. Du pry announced that the company have no power to tax the inhabitants.

THE TOWN WALL AND WALL TAX ROAD

The Town Wall consisted of 17 bastions connected with curtains averaging 300 yards in length. The north – wall presented a convex front towards Tondiarpet the west wall ran close to North river. On the outside of the rampart was cleared for a width of 600 yards to afford a field of fire, these spaces were known as Esplanades. The Principal gates were the Pully Gate at the northern end of Thambu chetty street, the Tiruvorriyur Gate near Monegar Choultry, the Ennore Gate near the northern end of the present mint street, the Elephant Gate, the Chukkler’s Gate at the western Gate of the present Rasappa Chetty Street and the Hospital Gate at the south western corner near the present entrance to the General Hospital. It was at first decided to have easy communication on the inside of the ramparts.
It was also designed to have a good road running along this space. Government then wanted to have a road made by means of a tax, but dropped the proposal on account of legal difficulties that arose wall tax keeps alive the memory of a tax that was never collected, for which even an officer “Collector of the Town Wall Tax was appointed. It is said that the arches in the ramparts were occupied by Indians who paid a rent or tax, hence, arose the name Wall Tax Road for the street which runs 2 miles and was close to the western wall.

To check the encroachments, which were taking place not only in Black Town but also in other villages, the company appointed a superintendent of Lands, named Eyles Irwin. The plan prepared by Marseden was lost and Capt. Pittman, was directed to make a fresh survey.

During the Governorship of Lord Macartney the old Black Town assumed the present shape. The name new Black Town was replaced only in the year 1906, as George Town, comprising Muthialpetta and Peddanaicken petta. Mr. Stephen Popham have made certain improvements in the Black Town region. The main north and south street is known as Popham’s Broadway. The Hog hill was also cleared for the safety of the fort by the advice of Sir Eyre coote. The improvements made by Popham is enlisted here below.

**POPHAM’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK TOWN**

He was a very enterprising man. He submitted a plan in 1782 for the establishment of a regular police for Madras and for the regulation of the city.\(^1\)\(^{51}\)

1. He advocated the building of direct and cross drains in every street to carry off water.
2. Naming and lighting of streets.
3. Registration of births and deaths.
4. Licensing of liquor, arrack and toddy shops
5. Creation of a body of policemen with central police and watch houses in different parts of the town.
6. Should possess list of inhabitants in every town street and their traders.
7. Shops and shop keepers name.
8. Animals and their carriages to be registered.
9. Servants and their wages, prices of cooly hire were to be settled.
10. Grass for animals were to be provided.
11. Tax was to be levied on property
12. Declined salary from the Nawab
13. Made an offer to raise a force for the protection of Black Town.
14. Introduced Police plan

He also pointed out the ills of the citizens of Madras.
A committee of Regulation was established and Popham was appointed as the secretary and it was abolished in 1791.

Popham Broadway was called as *Markettu Street*, which was created in the name of Popham. It was one of the broadest road at that time, which runs from north to south and divides Black Town into two Peddanaickenpettai on the west and Muttiyalpettai on the east. This road begins on the north of Fort St. George and runs towards north ending with the north rampart wall of Black Town, covering 1 ½ miles length several streets cross it at right angle. It was originally the bed of North river, the situation was low and liable to be flooded during heavy rains.

A Parliamentary Act of 1792 gave the power to the company to levy municipal taxes and it was resolved to order an assessment of 5% to be collected from the inhabitants on the estimated annual rents of their houses. The town cleaning was entrusted to two officers known as Surveyors and collectors under whom conservancy work was to be done by contract. Filth was to be removed from every street at least twice a week.

For a long time the house holders of the city evaded paying the assessment regularly maintained in the front of the houses.

**ADMINISTRATION OF BLACK TOWN**

It is to be noted here that the imperial Cholas had established good administration of villages, it was modified slightly by the Vijayanagar rulers. When the Britishers settled in Madarasapatnam, the first settlement itself was divided as White Town and Black Town. Eventhough the Vijayanagar rulers granted land, gradually the inhabitants became subordinates to the Britishers.

The Governor became the superior administrators and the Black Town or the New Black Town comprised of Peddanaiken pettah, Muthial pettah, which was renamed as George Town, was administered by three officials the Headman, or Adhikari, the Kanakkupillai or Accountant who assisted Adhikari, the Peddanaigue or Chief Watchman, he was assisted by a number of men kept in order in the streets. During festivals, arrested thieves and offenders and brought them for trial before the Headman. They assisted the Governor in the administration of Black Town.152

The Headman (or) Adhikari collected customs duties and registered sale of real properties and licensing of slaves. Reference to Headman or Adhikari is seldom found in the records.

The Conocopy (or) Kanakkapillai, in Madarasapatnam he was called as Town Concopillay. He assisted the Governor in the court of peace, at the junction of market in Choultry Street. The Town Conocopy was also called as Town Servant.153 The office of the Town concopy of Madras was conferred by the Naick of Poonamallee in
Raghava Pattan was appointed as conocoply and it was confirmed by Andrew Cogan and Francis Day. He is mentioned in British records as Ragabatanda. His office was hereditary and devoid of fixed salary. He was entitled to collect a small duty on all imports and exports.

When Gyfford was the Agent of Madrasapatnam the fees were attached on account of the indebtedness to Ottai Lingam, the son of Raghavapattan. In 1692, the courts decided that the fees were company’s disposal. On the death of Ottai Lingam in the year 1702, a fixed allowance was made to his son the balance of the income from dues was at first devoted to the corporation, but afterwards absorbed by government.

During Rumbold’s time the office of the Town conicoply was occupied by Periya Aiyan, fourth in descent from Raghava Pattan, claimed all arrears of the duties collected from 1695 up to 17, a copy of the Admiralty court’s judgement of 1694.

The trial of petty offenders was also done by the headman of the choultry or the Town House. It also served as a Customs House and as the place where thieves and evil doers were kept pending their trial. It contained a jail also for receiving offenders. The headman collected the customs duties and registered sale of real properties and licencing of slaves. These three were the officials who helped in the administration of Indian Town.

Periya Aiyan made petition to the government in 1779. Permission was also granted to Periya Aiyan to examine the accounts under the supervision of the secretary. In a second petition the claimant states that excepting for 9 years, the record is complete from 1695. After deducting certain allowances, the balance due amount to Pagoda 27852 – 38 – 54.

After a gap of four years, the court of Directors ordered for an investigation on this issue and certain condition concession was given to Periya Aiyan. Periya Aiyan submitted his petition along with the “genealogical tree” is appended with it.

At the end of 1790, Periya Aiyan decided to accept the monthly allowance which had been offered to him by Lord McCartney’s government on 30th March 1784 and asked that might be paid from the debt office of the Town conocoply terminated at the end of the century. In the year 1693, the council proposed to abolish the ancient office of Town Conocoply.

PEDDANAIGUE

He is placed third in the cadre of the administration of Black Town “Pedda” would mean big (or) “Senior” (or) Proper name and “Naigue” the Gentoo or the Telugu people. He was also called Big peon or Senior Naigue of all the three category Pedda wielded more importance and power. He was also called as poligar of Chennai.
He was the chief of the Taliaris\textsuperscript{162} or watchmen who were the earliest form of police his duty was to maintain a fixed establishment of peons and responsible for the preservation of order in the Black Town and two Pettahs. The earliest reference to Pedda Naigue occurs in the year 1654, during the governorship of Thomas Chambers.

Pedda Naigue had house and foreground in the village named Comerpettah, which was afterwards called Peddanaikpettah.\textsuperscript{163} The land was assigned to watchman for his service. He was also entitled to petty dues paid in kind, fuel brought from the country, fish caught from the river. The cowle was given by Thomas Chamber in 1659 but recorded in the year 1686.\textsuperscript{164}

The duty of the Peddanaigue were.

1. He could arrest brawlers and confine them.
2. In case of robbery he was to bound to compensate the sufferers.
3. His office was hereditary.
4. In return for his service he was given 1 paddy fields as rent free.

Peddanaigue was assisted by number of peons. In the beginning he had only 20 peons Later on, when Moorte Naigue’s son Timmanna build a house and watch the town with 50 peons. By the year in 1701 it was increased to 150 or 200 peons.\textsuperscript{165}

As one writer observes “the Poligar was thus the prototype of the Modern Burglary Insurance company”

Tolboy wheeler in his work describes when James II ascended the throne in 1685 he was proclaimed as a King in Madarasapatnam, at Fort St. George too. The procession was led by Peddanaigue.

“The whole council, with the commanders of ships and the company’s servants and English gentlemen, inhabitants of the city, came to attend the president of the Garden House in a handsome equipage on Horseback. The Pedda Naigue followed them along with peons, all in arms with them, the chief merchants and Gentoo inhabitants. They brought horse, elephant and musical instruments.” They went around the Fort in a Joyful acclamation. He also went around the Black Town.

The Pedda Naigue paid only 5 % of customs with the a customary fees. They requested the company free from all petty duties. The Armenians who settled in Madarasapattinam compared with the Peddanaigue and demanded similar exemption for them.

In the year 1727, the order of procession of Pedda Naigue was given, which went around the Black Town during festival and special occasion.\textsuperscript{166}
Major with foot soldiers and music troops. The dancing girls, The Pedda naigue on horseback. The Marshall with his staff on horseback the old and New Mayor on the right and Left hand side 4 Aldermen on horse back six halberdies the company’s chief peon on horseback and finally the chief Gentry in the Town, on horse.

Besides, they also served as recruiting officers, in 1678 when the company’s peons were inadequate to fight against Daud Khan, Pedda Naigue’s Talliars were utilised. Another instant was when hostilities broke out between the French and English in 1745, 200 peons were engaged in the war.

The Poligars also enjoyed several privileges, one of them being freedom from arrest. In 1736 the jurisdiction of arrest was extended from 1 ½ miles to 10 miles. The sheriffs should not issue any warrant of arrest against them.167

In 1778, the government resolved not to collect Quit Rent and Scavengers Duty from the parians in paracherry, the poligars and their followers, the menial servants, the poor Moors, consisting of peons, Housekeepers, and masalgies. The inhabitants of Washermenpettah paid two pagodas along with them the Europeans, the Armenians and others evaded from paying the tax.

During the Governorship of Sir William Longhorne, the following order was passed with regard to the customs share of the Governor Agent and the Poligars.

In paddy Banksall, the custom for the Gento pagoda was for every heap of paddy, one measure for Peddanaigue, on every great ox – a load of paddy ¾ measure, for small ox load ½ measure.

The Duties charged of Christians were less than those charged of others. The company at one time protested against the discrimination of Fort st. George. In spite of levied the protest the usual duty to the Pedda Naigue and for all the Christians 3/32 percentage, the Gentoos and Moores 5/32 percentage. This was collected in the year 1684.

An order was issued by Governor Pitt in 1701; the Poligar should bring every year twelve head of Deer, and twelve Wild Hogs during their season.

In the year 1699, there was a dispute between Timmappa Naigue and Angappa Naigue and the government was in favour of Angappa Naigue.

In the year 1717, the firman was received from the Mughal ruler Zulfikhar Khan with regard to the purchase of villages. The farman was laid in the Governor’s state palanquin, it was read out in order, Telugu and English. The document was carried around the Black Town by the Peddanaigue. The procession passed through the Attapollam Gates or Tomclarke’s Gate, Bridge foot Gate. The procession consisted of Peddanaigue, Talliars and Native music band. It was led by Peddanaigue. The Dubash read out the document aloud in each gate.
When the French laid siege in the year 1758 – 59, the Pedda Naigue of Black Town died. After his death it was resolved to abolish the post. The petty taxes levied in support of it was also suspended till further order. Sepoy guards in the Black Town were substituted for the Poligar’s watchmen. But the demand for the poligar was put forth five years later the plan was restored and son of the late Peddanaigue was appointed poligar.

Towards the end of the 17th century there were several complaints of the poligars conduct. Due to this reason, the poligar was deprived of his fees at the sea beach by the Board of Revenue.

In 1798, in accordance with the recommendation of a Police committee, the governor reinstated the poligar of the Black Town and the Washing Town, and the following order was issued. The order was passed by Lord Hobart and he appointed “Codungone Ungarappa” Naigue.

1. He was appointed as watchmen of the city of Madras and of the washing grounds.
   He must have at least 100 peons, prevent robberies and other disorders in the Black Town and Washer’s Town.

2. The following custom was permitted to him. He can receive the fees as previous, from the land custom house and the Native Merchants. viz, 7 ½ half cash on each pagoda value, on weighing goods as cleared at the custom house, twenty cash on each pagoda value.
   He shall collect duty from all Goods of all the merchants except the Europeans at the sea Gate, viz., piece goods, Raw silk, Drugs, grain, lamp oil seeds, 27 ½ cash on each pagoda value on paddy, rice timber, planks, reapers and redwood, seven and half cash on each pagoda value.
   He could collect 3 fanams from Great House and 2 fanams for small house.

   The peons should be employed for the security and peace of the Black Town.

   When any person paying custom, and if is robbed, he pore exceeding two months, he should compensate for the same.

   Like the other goods, he will also receive 7 ½ cash pagoda value for washing the cloth at washing ground, if it is robbed it should be compensated.

   By the time the cowle was granted it is probable that the poligar had come under administrative control. His office was abolished in 1806 and a regular police was formed, which continued the methods and persons of the old system. In 1858, another effort was made to reform. The police force was also remodelled.

   The Native merchants played a vital role in the administration and the Dubash helped the English governor and the English merchants in their trade actives.
KOTWAL OF MARKETS AND BOARD OF POLICE

Warren Hasting when he served in Madras established Board of Police in the year 1770. It was the duty of the Police to regulate the market and prices. However, the Directors abolished the Board, because it affects the Jurisdiction of Mayor’s Court.

It was renewed by Sir Archibald Campbell in the year 1777, Straton appointed Viraperumal as Kotwal or Cutwal or overseer of the markets. The word “Cutwal” means superintendent of police. The name was derived from Persian language and the term Kotwal was “Commander of a Fort”. Veera Perumal was appointed as Cutwal by Straton, during the Governorship of Sir Archibald Campbell. In the year 1780 William Webb, was appointed as Superintendent of police. He had to inspect markets, bazars establish a fish market, and reduce the price of provisions.

The Board of police or Cutwal was constituted with Governor and council of ministers. The condition of Black Town was very unhealthy. Streets have to be laid out. The streets had to become whole some, which had to be cleared frequently, levelled and cleaned daily. For the conservation of Black Town, tax was collected from the inhabitants i.e., Quit Rent and Scavenger’s Duty.

There was a dispute between Vira Perumal and William Webb, the later obtained permission to absorb the office of Cutwal. The new system worked till 1782. The Directors refused to recognise Webb and blacked his Salary. Popham framed a comprehensive proposal to regulate the city.

In 1797, a regular Police scheme was instituted, including a clerk of the market, a Kotwal an assistant and form the modern Police organisation.

GEORGE TOWN

Fort St. George was the nerve centre of British government. The White Town and Black Town existed as one unit in the beginning, without any demarcation. The old Black Town existed in the Esplanade region where the present High Court stands. After its destruction by the French the New Black Town was grated with Muthialpettah, Peddanaikka petta and Comerapetta in 1760. Subsequently a demarcation wall was also erected.

When the population had increased in the White Town and Black Town they started migrating to suburban region. Likewise Commercial activities were also increased. Hence, Edward Clive decided to separate administration and trade. In 1798, the Sea customs was also shifted to first line Beach Road. The name New Black Town was in use till the beginning of the 19th C. A.D. The name of the area ‘Black Town’ was renamed in 1906 in Honour of King George V, when he was crowned as the Emperor of India. The name George Town is still extant and officially used.
The present day George Town covered an area of 850 acres, i.e. 3.5 sq.kms. it is bounded on the North by old Jail Road, Madi poonga and Basin Bridge Road, the east by the Chennai Port and Parry’s corner. The High court, Esplanade and Law College are on the south, on the west the Wall Tax Road, the Central railway station, Elephant Gate, Mannady, Kasi Chetty streets, Sowcarpet are located. Within this limit of the boundary the Muthialpetta, flower Bazaar, Peddanaicken Petta are located. The term “Broadway” is applied to the Junction, where the four road meets the Esplanade Road, the flower Bazaar Road, the Broadway road and the High Court Road. These Roads are Popularly known as NSC Bose Road and the Broadway road is called as Prakasam Road.

The Mint Street is one of the longest Street, is also on the important Hindu temples of their region are the Senglunir Pillayar Temple. The Kandasamy Temple, The Chenna Kesava and Mallisvara Temple, the Ekambareswarar temple, the Kalikambal and Kachchaleeswara temple, the Krishnan temple, Malligeswara Temple.

The Christian worshiping place St. Mary’s Church, the Armenian Church, Arcot Lutheran Church, the Wesley Church, the Anderson Church. The new modern Building which were erected since independence were Kuralagam, BSNL office Building, New Collectorate office, State Bank of Mysore India, the Raja Annamalai Manram.

Thus the development of Black Town its growth has been fairly depicted above. The Maps drawn by the British Since 1683 provides a first-hand information on the location of important regions Comerepet, Peddanaickn Petta, Muthial Petta. After 1800 the boundary of Madras started expanding beyond Peddanaick Pettah and Muthial Petta. A map of 1798 shows the limits of the city which shows the extension of the city to the Suburban regions. It shows Madras and its suburbs viz., Medical, Police system, Collector, Sea customs and land custom.

Even though the Pettahs lost its importants, the major administrative offices, communication system i.e Railway stations, Harbour, Tramways, Bank, High Court Important business centres were established in the 18th and 19th C.A.D.