

TheABHubbackProject May 3, 2020 1 min read



New Government Offices: Spatial Usage in 1897

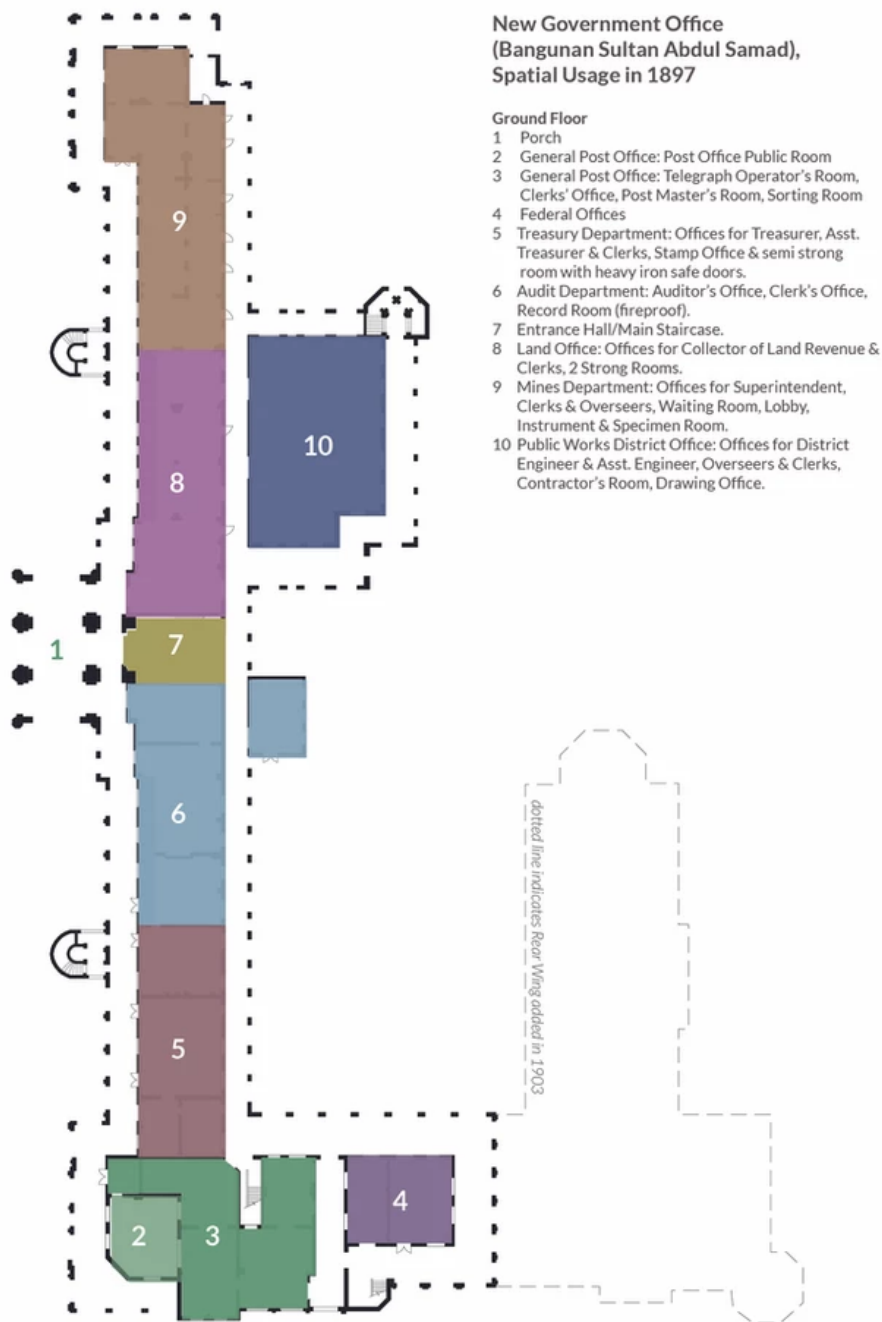
Updated: May 22, 2020

If you've ever wondered how the 'New Government Offices' (Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad) was used when it was just completed in April 1897, we've mapped it out for you. Tadaa!

The building fitted in **9 Government Departments**; Government Secretary's Office (Secretariat), Federal Offices, Treasury Department, Audit Department, Land Office, Survey Department, Mines Department, Public Works Department (State & District) and the General Post Office.

AB Hubback was promoted from Chief Draughtsman to Assistant Architect in May 1897, so we're guessing his office would have been in the PWD Drawing Office on the first floor (No. 13), with a view towards the river and town centre. He resigned from the post in December 1897 though. We reckon the spatial arrangement would have differed slightly when he returned to Federal services in 1901.

As the State Engineer, C.E Spooner's office was at No. 12 (first floor). A.C Norman was appointed as Kuala Lumpur's District Engineer in June 1896, so his office would have been in No.10 PWD's District Office (ground floor).

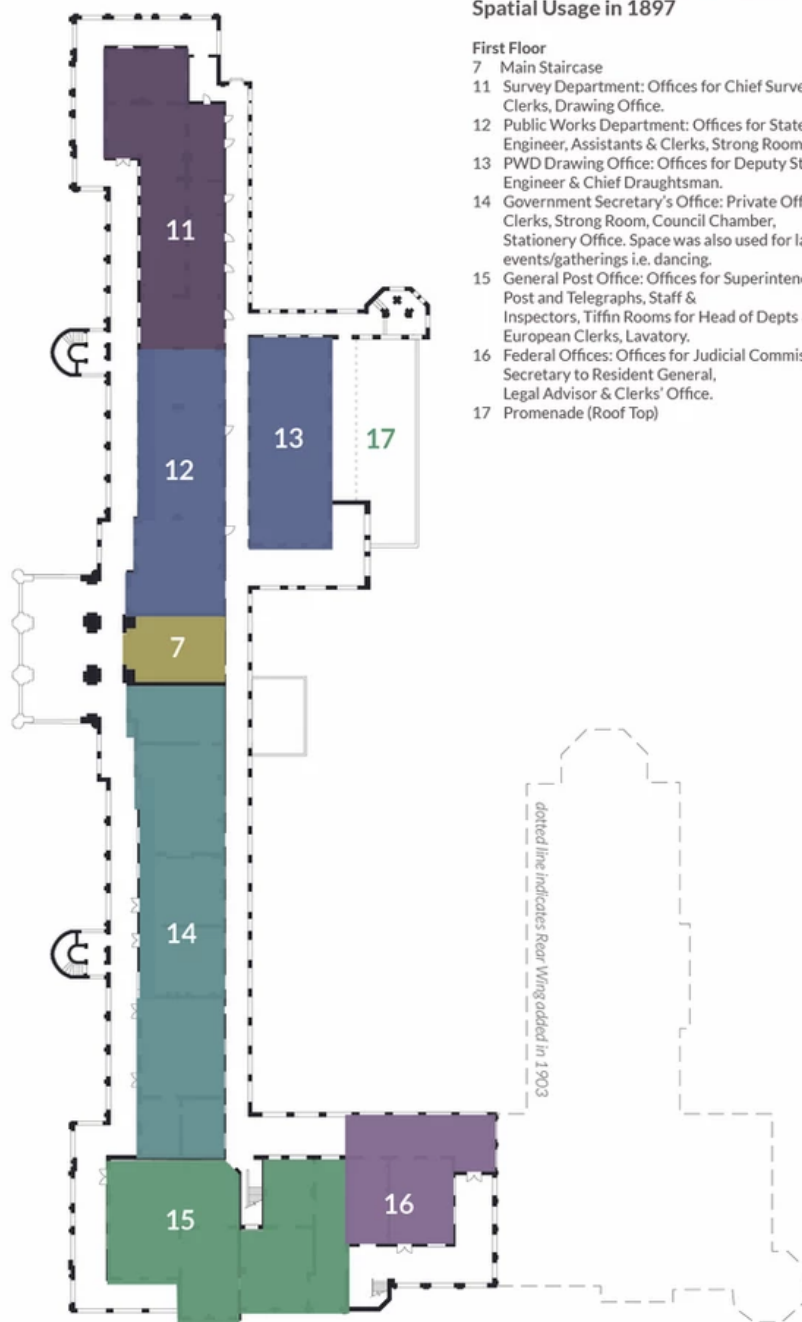


M I K L

New Government Office (Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad), Spatial Usage in 1897

First Floor

- 7 Main Staircase
- 11 Survey Department: Offices for Chief Surveyor & Clerks, Drawing Office.
- 12 Public Works Department: Offices for State Engineer, Assistants & Clerks, Strong Room.
- 13 PWD Drawing Office: Offices for Deputy State Engineer & Chief Draughtsman.
- 14 Government Secretary's Office: Private Office, Clerks, Strong Room, Council Chamber, Stationery Office. Space was also used for large events/gatherings i.e. dancing.
- 15 General Post Office: Offices for Superintendent of Post and Telegraphs, Staff & Inspectors, Tiffin Rooms for Head of Depts & European Clerks, Lavatory.
- 16 Federal Offices: Offices for Judicial Commissioner, Secretary to Resident General, Legal Advisor & Clerks' Office.
- 17 Promenade (Roof Top)



M I K L

- Estimation for No. 16 is based on floor area and old photographs.

Spatial Tabulation for the 'New Government Offices' in 1897

Spatial Tabulation: Ground Floor	w (ft)	l (ft)
1 Porch		
General Post Office		
2 Public Room		
3 Telegraph Operator's Room	32'	20' 1/5"
Clerks	23'	26'
Sorting Room	29'	25' 1/4"
Postmaster's Room	23'	18' 75"
4 Federal Offices		
Office 1	30'	15'
Office 2	30'	15'
Office 3	30'	20'
5 Treasury Department		
Treasurer's Office	30'	23'
Clerks	36'	30'
Assistant Treasurer	20'	13' 1/2"
Stamp Office		
Semi Strong Room	20'	15' 1/2"
6 Audit Department		
Auditor	30'	24'
Clerks	38' 1/2"	30'
Record Room	34'	21'
7 Entrance Hall/Main Staircase		
8 Land Office		
Collector of Land Revenue	34'	34' 3/4"
Clerks	40'	30'
Strong Room 1	29'	20'
Strong Room 2	29'	20'
9 Mines Department		
Superintendent	30'	20'
Clerks	30'	20'
Overseers	52'	17'
Waiting Room	28'	12'
Lobby	12'	12'
Instruments & Specimens	30'	12'
10 Public Works District Office		
District Engineer	24'	17'
Assistant Engineer	17'	16'
Contractor's Room	16'	17'
Overseers & Clerks	38'	28'
Drawing Office	38'	28'

	Spatial Tabulation: First Floor	w (ft)	l (ft)
7	Main Staircase		
11	Survey Department Chief Surveyor's Office Clerks Drawing Office	30' 3/4" 21' 50'	20' 44' 30' 3/4"
12	Public Works Department State Engineer's Office Office Assistant Clerical Staff Strong Room	34' 30' 3/4" 30' 3/4" 30' 3/4"	33' 19' 19' 10'
13	Drawing Office	79'	18'
14	Government Secretary's Office Private Office Secretariat's Clerks Record Room Council Chamber Stationery Office	24' 64' 21' 36' 20'	30' 3/4" 30' 3/4" 34' 30' 3/4" 30' 3/4"
15	Superintendent Post & Telegraphs Private Office Clerks Inspectors Tiffin Room for Head Dept Tiffin Room for Clerks Lavatory Empty Room (Library)	28' 32' 24' 26' 20' 24'	28' 21' 26' 14' 14' 24'
16	Federal Offices Judicial Commissioner's Office Scretary to Resident General Legal Advisor Clerks' Office	26' 16' 30' 3/4" 30' 3/4"	28' 16' 21' 16'
17	Promenade (Roof Top)	68'	28'



AB Hubback's probable work place in 1897 - the PWD Drawing Office, and the roof top promenade that you may be wondering about (today renovated).

References:

- i. Gullick, JM, Selections from the Selangor Journal 1892-1897 (reprint No.26), MBRAS, 2007, pp.186-187.
- ii. TSFPMA, 6 April 1897, p2, The New Government Offices, Kuala Lumpur



History

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