
PUBLIC BUILDING, NATCHEZ, MISS.

FEBRUARY 24, 1900.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MONEY, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1402.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1402) providing for a public building at Natchez, Miss., having carefully considered the same, submit the following report: The city of Natchez is one of the oldest and most important cities of Mississippi. It has a population of 13,000 and is the commercial distributing center for a population of 150,000. It has no public building.

The city is situated on a high bluff on the east bank of the Mississippi River and is the terminus of three railroad systems. The post-office employs 9 persons, and in 1899 the receipts were \$17,847 and increasing. The post-office has inadequate quarters and is now in a rented building for which is paid \$800 per annum. There is a collector of port, who has no suitable place for office. About \$72,000 in pensions are annually distributed from Natchez, where are required the services of a special pension examiner, who, with the board of medical examiners, should have an office in this building. The United States engineers engaged in levee work along the Mississippi River in adjacent parishes and supervising the improvement of the harbors of Natchez and Vidalia, will be provided with quarters in this building adequate to their needs. The United States inspector for the Marine-Hospital Service is located at Natchez, with no suitable place for quarters.

A branch of the Weather Bureau, which is hoped to be established in Natchez, can be suitably accommodated in this building.

The city has two cotton mills and two cotton-seed oil mills, an iron foundry, an elevator and other industrial plants.

In view of these facts the committee report back the bill with the recommendation that it do pass.

