Atlanta Ga Feb 1st 1866

To the Hon

Senate and House Representatives

We your humble Petitioners

Freedmen of Atlanta Ga. and members of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, and a portion of the congregation lately worshiping with said Church, Beg leave to represent to your honorable body, that during the late campaign of General Sherman through [illegible] our house of worship was torn down to the ground, and utterly demolished by a party of Federal Soldiers,

It was without the least provocation on our part, as we ever demeaned ourselves loyal, and never misused the Federal Soldiers, believing them our best friends,

Your petitioners would state that it was a large, commodious, and well ~~founded~~ finished edifice, that had been built by ourselves when in slavery, our contributions for building were raised, by very many hours of severe toil after our daily tasks were done for our Masters, And by denying ourselves many of the comforts of life, It was our crown and joy, It was to us what the temple was to the Jews, When the dark days of war had passed, and we gathered again here from our wanderings, "our holy and beutiful house" was a mass of ruins, Having no place but under the open canopy of Heaven to publicly worship the God of our fathers,

we gathered courage from adversity and trusting in God, out of the broken fragments remaining of the building, fitted up the skeleton of a house for the present exigency, but wholy inadequate to the wants of the congregation, As almost all of us have been slaves all our lives, we are without pecuniary means to build another house of worship, Most of us are struggling for our life, dependent on the small proceeds of our daily labor to support our families, and aid the sick and inferior among us, We feel deeply thankful to the United States Government, who under God have given us the inestimable boon of Freedom,

We are fully conscious of the desire for our welfare, for our physical condition and moral elevation, your petitioners are therefore the more bold and hopefull, considering that our church was destroyed by federal Soldiers, without any provocations on our part, to petition your honorable body to make an appropriation of money to enable us to build another house of worship,

Our church was valued at Seven thousand dollars, We therefore ask the Government to assist us in building it, And we your servants will ever pray for your happiness and endless felicity,

Names of the Preachers

Joseph Wood,	Pastor in Charge,
S. B. Jones	Local Preachers
Nc C Brown	" "
Thomas + Craton	" "
Archie + Gibbert	" "
Douglass + Wilkins	" "
John + Geeter	" "
Henry + Strickland	" "
Ephraim + Russel	" "
Neelus + Murphy	" "
Athany + Mongomery	Charter
Duncan + Minard	"
John + Ricks	"
Booker + Winship	class leader
Green + York	" "
Vine + Ware	" "
Melser + Tinsel	" "
John + Roberson	
Isam + Pascar	
Stephen + Harwood	
Robert + Pearce	Henry Bedles, leader,
Preston + Johnson	
Daniel Magee	Steward
Sam + Swuer	
Reobert + Webster	
Daniel + Macgee	
John + Macgee	
Nathen + Prior	

Charles x Conley	Austin x Keith
Andy x Miller	Stephen x Gale
Perry x Webster	Larry x Thomas
Isaac x Colhoun	Lewis x Giles
Jacob Grant	Berry x Johnson
Church x Mays	Ben x Fish

Jacob x Fleman
Willis x Copeland
Antony x Johnson
Anderson x Boyd
Henry x Isaac
George x Gilham
Henry x Perkins
Burr x Knuckles
Wesley x Thomlinson
Wm x Miller
Jack x Stokes
Tilman x Arthur
Turner x Davis
Wm x Wood
Andrew x Newsom
Fletcher x Zachry
Moses x Calhoun
Gilbert x Green
Elias x Pinckney
John x Mooty
Saml x Martin
John x Watson
Thomas x Foster
Henry x Johnson
Sidney x Jones
Thomas x Owens
James x Davis
Jeff x Brooks
Alfred x Porter

Robert x Henry
Charles Forrest
Caesar x Miller
Stephen x Fowler
Richmond x Green
Mich x Mitchell
Charley x Prince
Gabriel x Russell
Henry x Green
Noah x Davis
W. F. x Turner
Zeber x Wright
Josh x McClellan
Wm x Wesley
Charly x Harris
Wm x Combs
Ransom x Montgomery
John x Menam
Jett x Thomas
Martin x Wright
Arnold x Johnson
Solomon x Johnson
Alfred x Williams
Doty x Williams
Joe x Williams
Major x Whittaker
Thomas x Holland
Peter x Key
Dorsey x Brooks

Frederick x Welsey
Peter x Calhoun
Peter x Richmond
Robert x Lynn
Benjn x Cobb
Eager x Cobb
John x Wood
John x Clark
Joe x Mills
Danl x Saffor

Jeff. x Bonnett
Ben x Whittaker
Ben x Jones
Thom x Anderson
Cornelius x Thomas
John x Anderson
Wm x Gay
Charley x Gay
Wm Daugherty
Rev Francis Marles

John x Alexander
George x Lee
Saml x Stewart
Green x Homes
Sanford x Wood
Russ x Alexander
Nelson x Saffo
Thomas x Tanner
John x Johnson
Freeman x Johnson
Danl x Webster
Henry x Harris
Mack x Inman
Zion x Turner
John x Foster
Turner x Morrell
Felix x Malone
Lewis x Colwell
Tom x Combs
Tony x Hoïl
Hardy x Royson
Mack x McNeil
Nelson x Daugherty
Ezekiel x Wilkinson

Robt H Badger
Matilda + Mongamer
Jane + Green
Ma nurvay + Marsh
Lousey + Gail
Elen + Johnson
Haner + Printurp
Marthan + Daniels
Lousinda + Mack
Caroline + Tinssaley

Marry + Williams
Mimey + Badger
Caroline + Badger
Marry + Farres
Hester + Brier
Marry + Badger
Silvey + Swissey
Winey + Peares
Marry + Fowler
Caroline + Huchans

Rarichel + Miller
Marry + Ones
Matilday milner
Lasar + Comes
Harret + Zackey
Lousindar + Croton
Emble + Jones
Lissey + Russeley
Honer + Murfphe
Lisser + Gilder
Emerline + Groar
Rosey + Young
Matilda + Richards
Malissey + McGee
Marry + Scott
Loular + Bovier
Marry J + Calhon
Aner + woods
Rosey + Coing
Naomey + weebster
Rosey + Lester
Harrty + Bird
Marah + Jinkins
Jaler + Tanner
Betty + Davis

Mothey + McEover
Marrey + foster
Grossey + Warrey
Angeline + Malone
Silver + Holvel
Eady + Howel
Jane + Darrety
Caroline + Green

Selester + Brise
Maliste + Dean
Rachel + Masson
Leaner + Masson
Embley + McColler
Elizer + Edwoods
Silvey + Hametton
Vilety + Burit
Harrey + Burit
Allerline + Calhoon
Rocksey + Henderson
Elizey + Jefson
Marry J + Boyed
Marioh + Willison
Francy + Minion
Polley + Beddel
Elizer + Lin
Cherrey + Lin
Lousey + Mongomrey
Marry + Hill
Elisabth + williams
Myerrey + Shoemake
Louiser + Eps
Alices + Johnson
Marry + Smith

Savannah + peeters
Emer + Saffor
Lousinda + Sosseen
Babrey + yourk
Eler + Davis
Larror + Morrel
Francis + fields

Trustees of Said Church
Robert Webster, Chairman Trustee board,
Anthony Montgemery
L. B. Jones,
Duncan Minard
Vine Ware
Nathan Prior
Thomas Crayton,