



*Cotton Press Building, New Orleans, LA*

## **Brick Masonry**

Brick work, like many of the carpenters' efforts, is also hidden from view. The local bricks made from river mud proved so porous that they had to be sealed in a coating of concrete stucco if they were to serve for any appreciable period of time. But given the prohibition on wooden buildings, these bricks known as "soft reds" were used to build most of New Orleans during the first half of the nineteenth century. Around 1850 a more durable "lake brick" made from clays mined on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain became available and it was then possible for the mason's handiwork to finally be displayed to the public, particularly in the construction of buildings that were being erected in the Garden District.