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Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From the time of the early settlement in Tennessee down to the present time, the courthouse has played a vital role in the life of the community. In addition to serving as a place to hold court and carry on the affairs of the county, it has served a multitude of other purposes. Since it was the only available place in many instances, meetings of all kinds, from political to religious, have taken place in the courthouse. The steps and yard have been favorite locations for political oratory, and have heard the chant of the auctioneer and the pleading of the itinerant preacher. Held regularly are the sessions of those who gather to engage in a few games of checkers, swap knives, whittle, or just comment on the problems facing the world.

Of all the courthouses built in Tennessee before the Civil War, only seven have survived. All of the others have given way to various forms of destruction. Many were victims of fire, pillage, and wanton destruction during the war. Others have given way to progress as obsoleteness and overcrowded conditions necessitated the construction of larger quarters. The Roane County Courthouse is one of the seven survivors. Due to its style of architecture which represents the antebellum courthouses of Tennessee which are rapidly becoming extinct, it should certainly be preserved.



MAJOR	BIBLIOGR	APHICAL RE	FERENCE	:s									
Goo	dspeed,	W. A.	(pub.)	His	tory	0	f Ten	iessee	e (Nas	hville	, 1886	5).	
<u><u> </u></u>	ennesse	e Histor	rical (	uart	erly	•	Vol.	XXX (	(1971)	No. 1,	pp. 3	8-25.	
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