

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Decatur Methodist Church</u> Common name: <u>Decatur Methodist Church</u> Address: <u>Vernon Street</u> <u>Decatur, Tennessee</u>	STATUS	Open to public: Yes ___ No ___ Restricted <u>X</u> Visible from road: Yes <u>X</u> No ___ Occupied: Yes <u>X</u> No ___ Present use: <u>Religious</u> Current condition: <u>Good</u> Alterations: <u>1 story frame addition in rear added in late 1930's. 1 story brick Sunday School added in 1960's.</u> Site features: <u>N/A</u>		
	Owner's name: <u>Holston Conference-United</u> Owner's address: <u>Methodist Church, 1111 North-shore Blvd., Knoxville, Tennessee 37919</u> Classification: <u>Building-private</u> Tax map reference: <u>Dist. 3, Map 42-K, Parcel E-5</u> Acreage: <u>1.6 acres</u> UTM reference: <u>Zone 16 N 3931950</u> <u>E 700250</u>				
	Date of construction: <u>ca. 1859</u> Architect/builder: <u>unknown</u> Original or previous owners: <u>Decatur Methodist Church congregation</u> Original use: <u>Religious</u> Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>N/A</u> Other <u>N/A</u>		SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>Lillard, Stewart. Meigs County, TN., p. 132.</u> Form prepared by: <u>Stephen T. Rogers</u> Title: <u>Cultural Resource Surveyor</u> Organization: <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u> Date: <u>11/24/80</u>	
	The Decatur Methodist Church is a one story frame weatherboarded building with stone foundation and metal cross gable open return roof. A belltower rises from a pedimented recessed double leaf panelled entrance door. The belltower features a steeple with a pyramidal bellcast pressed tin roof and finial, pointed arched louvered belfry, and a rectangular band of latticework under the eaves. The original bell, purchased for \$25, remains in the bell-tower. The facade (east elevation) has a pointed arched transom with y-tracery over paired windows between 6 over 6 light windows. A one story 1930's frame addition joins the rear of the church, and a later one story brick addition was built in the 1960's.				
	SIGNIFICANCE		The Decatur Methodist Church was organized about 1837, as the first Methodist Church in the town. No permanent structure was built until ca. 1859 when Joseph McCorkle donated lot #69 to the congregation for a church. By 1860, the Decatur Methodist Church formed the center or base of the Decatur Methodist Circuit which involved thirteen congregations and chapels throughout the county. As the size of the congregation grew, the Decatur Church grew in importance. An accounting of the Methodist population in Meigs County in 1973 showed that the Decatur Methodist Church, with 167 members, is the largest of the eight active congregations. Although buildings used for religious purposes are generally not eligible for the National Register, the Decatur Methodist Church is an exception because its primary		

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

Photographer: Stephen T. Rogers

Date: 5/3/79

Negatives on file: Tennessee Historical
Commission

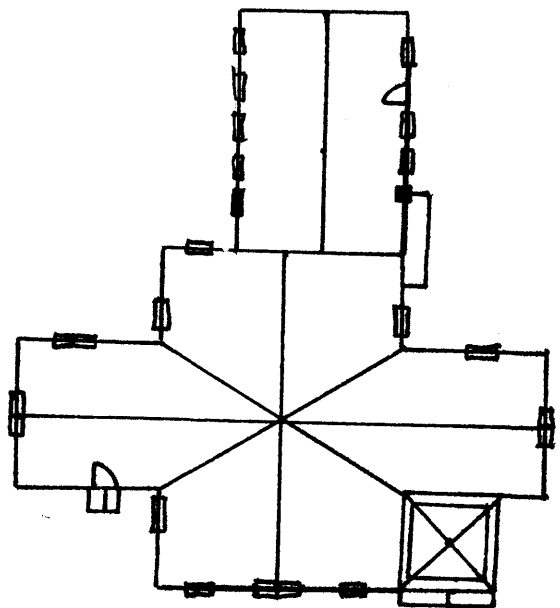
Photographer facing: N & E elevation-facing SW

Photograph number 36 of 55 .

CONTINUATION

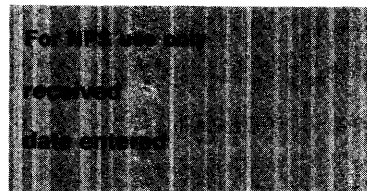
Significance: (continued)
significance is derived from its architectural importance to Meigs County. One of three church buildings included in this multiple resource nomination, it serves to illustrate a variation in type of these modest rural church buildings. The 1859 little altered Decatur Methodist Church, with its pointed arch windows and steeple vents, is the only ecclesiastical building in the county which demonstrates influence of the Gothic Revival period. Although built only nine years later than the Mt. Zion Church (#13), its architecture differs distinctively; Mt. Zion Church exemplifies the small rectangular meetinghouse type with Greek Revival period influence in detailing. The Decatur Methodist Church, differs from the ca.1890 rectan-

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of Item number Significance Page 2
Meigs County, Tennessee

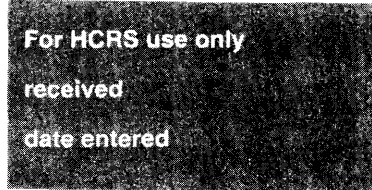
MEIGS COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION - Decatur Methodist Church (#28)

Continued from back of Survey Form (Site #28)

gular Victorian Gothic Oak Grove Methodist Church (#4) with its cross gable plan and steeple placement.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of Meigs County, Tennessee Item number Identification Page 2

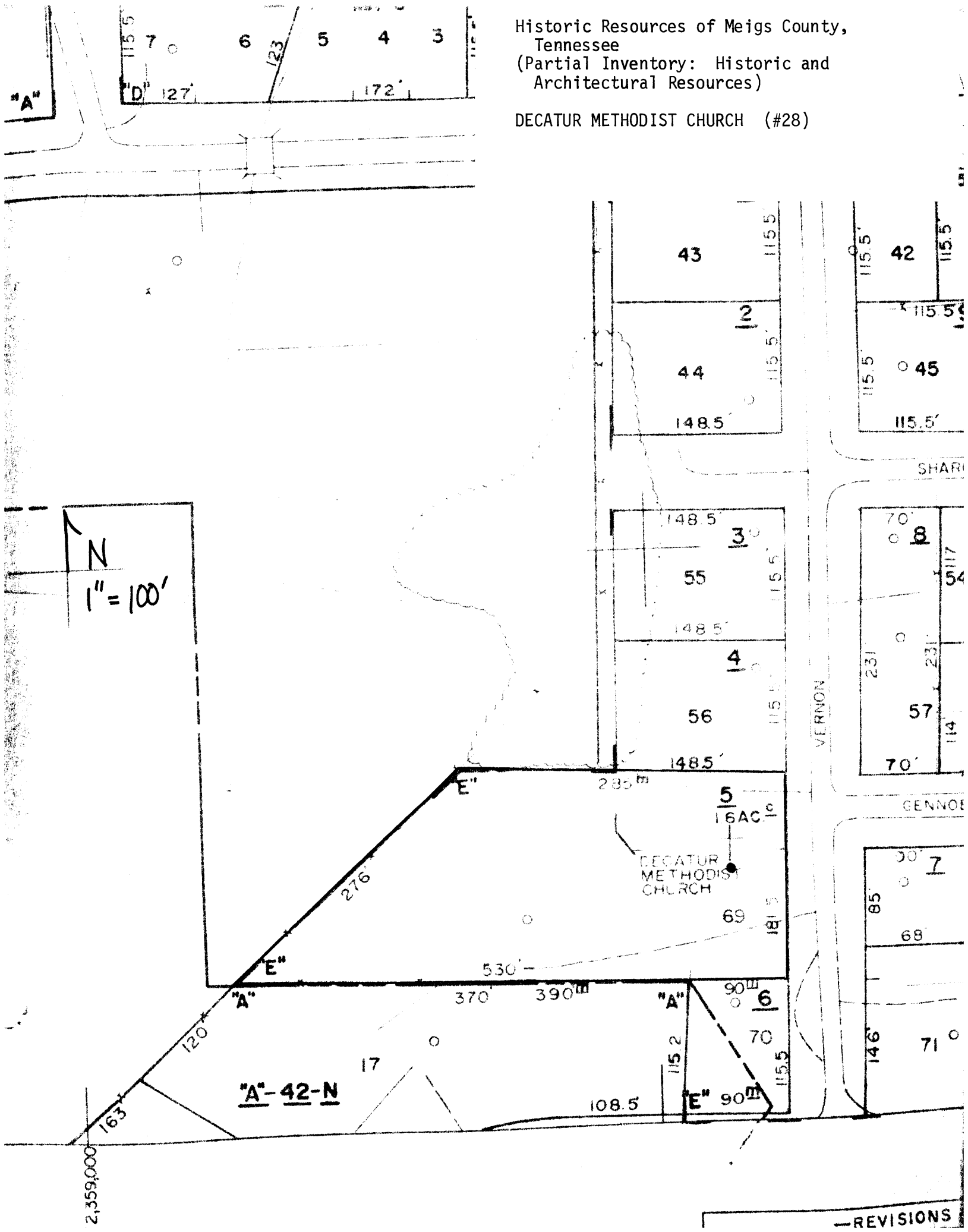
MEIGS COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION - Decatur Methodist Church (#28)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

28. The boundaries shown on the accompanying map conform to the dimensions of the lot, occupied by the church, which consists of 1.6 acres.

Historic Resources of Meigs County,
Tennessee
(Partial Inventory: Historic and
Architectural Resources)

DECATUR METHODIST CHURCH (#28)



N
1" = 100'

"A-42-N"

-REVISIONS