

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Robert H. Smith Law Office</u> Common name: <u>Culvahouse Office</u> Address: <u>1158</u> Decatur, Tennessee	STATUS	Open to public: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Visible from road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present use: <u>Commercial</u> Current condition: <u>Fair</u> Alterations: <u>Building has been moved two blocks from original location on the Court Square (moved prior to 1900).</u> Site features: <u>N/A</u>		
	Owner's name: <u>J. D. Culvahouse</u> Owner's address: <u>Highway 58 North</u> <u>Decatur, Tennessee 37322</u> Classification: <u>Building-private</u> Tax map reference: <u>Dist. 3, Map 42-K, Parcel C-7</u> Acreage: <u>.1 acres</u> UTM reference: <u>Zone 16 N 3932310</u> <u>E 700520</u>				
	Date of construction: <u>ca. 1880</u> Architect/builder: <u>Robert H. Smith</u> Original or previous owners: <u>Robert H. Smith, Tennessee River Telephone Company</u> Original use: <u>Commercial</u> Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>Law</u> Other <u>Commerce</u>		SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>Interview with Miss Caroline Lillard, Decatur, TN., May 2, 1979.</u> <u>Goodspeed, History of Tennessee. 1880 Meigs County Census.</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 Robert H. Smith Law Office is a small rectangular shaped building in a vernacular Gothic Revival style of architecture. Resting on a concrete block foundation, this building is sided with weatherboards and covered by a steep pitched metal gable roof with a bargeboard and decorative eaves trim in a trefoil pattern. The three bay facade (north elevation) has a single leaf five panel door with a lancet head, and is flanked by lancet windows with y-tracery. A louvered pointed arch attic vent is in the gable end.				
	The Robert H. Smith Law Office represents one of three pre-1900 examples of a commercial building in Decatur and exhibits an emphasis on the Gothic Revival. Aside from the Courthouse, this building is the only one in the county associated with the practice of law. Robert H. Smith, born in North Carolina in 1845, was practicing law in Meigs County by 1880. The length of time Smith practiced law in Decatur is not known, but he was listed in <u>Goodspeeds 1887 History of Meigs County</u> as one of four lawyers. Originally located on the court square, the building was moved prior to 1900 to its present location. Over the years, the building has been used for the office for several businesses including the Tennessee River Telephone Office,				
	SIGNIFICANCE				

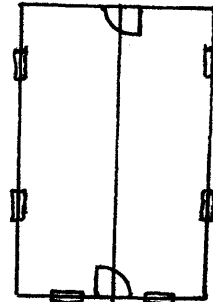
**PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA**

Photographer: Stephen T. Rogers  
Date: 5/2/79  
Negatives on file: Tennessee Historical  
Commission  
Photographer facing: N & W elevation - facing SE  
Photograph number 31 of 55 .

**CONTINUATION**

Significance:  
and more recently, the office for the Mountain View Memorial Garden.

**SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow**



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

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



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

MEIGS COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION - Robert H. Smith Law Office (#24)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

24. The boundary line begins at a point 115 feet east of the southeast corner of the intersection of Smith St. and North Main St., thence east along Smith St. 45 feet, thence south 45 feet, thence west 45 feet, thence north 45 feet to the beginning. This boundary takes the form of a square which encompasses the building. Due to the lack of property lines or visual boundaries on the east, and west sides, imaginary boundary lines were established to include the building and approximately .1 acre of land on which it sits.

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

ROBERT H. SMITH LAW OFFICE (#24)

