

DeFord Smith, Sr.

(c. 1894—1952)

DeFord Sr. graduated in 1912 from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Choate and Cyril B. Smith Firm in 1914 and designed many homes in the following years. In a DeKalb County publication about Druid Hills, DeFord Sr. was listed as a one of “the Atlanta area’s most prominent architects (who) designed houses in the Druid Hills area during this early to mid-twentieth-century period. This work has produced an impressive collection of high-style houses, particularly of the period revival styles.” (www.co.dekalb.ga.us/planning/pdf/hp/p1.pdf)

Examples of this period of work are shown below.



Harold O. Rogers, Residence



Edgar E. Hunnicutt, Residence



1092 Springdale Road
Designed by DeFord Smith, Sr., 1919

From 1934 to 1942, DeFord Sr. was a regional architect for the USDA Forest Service (Region 8: Southern Region)

The following is from A History of the Architecture of the USDA Forest Service:

Region 8 hired DeFord Smith as Regional Architect in 1934. Smith was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in architecture. He was very busy during the CCC era, producing 14 designs in 1934, 43 in 1935, 68 in 1936, 69 in 1937, 75 in 1938, and 64 in 1939. These designs consisted of picnic shelters, toilets, residences, offices, bunkhouses, lodges, and fire towers (see figures 1-37 and 1-38 on pages 46 and 47). He considered his most notable projects as Mt. Magazine Lodge (1939), Wayah Bald Observation Tower (1938) (see figure 2-74 on page 103), and various bridge designs for Puerto Rico.

Also in Region 8, the CCC razed "undesirable structures" such as cabins and outbuildings left by former owners or occupants to prevent their use by squatters. In later years, only a few foundation stones and bases for chimneys remained to mark the site of these former mountain homes.