



MEDIA ALERT

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GALLATIN ROAD FIRE HALL TO BE SAVED DESPITE LAST NIGHT'S FIRE

Metro Historic Zoning Commission: Damage can be repaired; issues permit for emergency work to stabilize and secure roof, windows and doors

Nashville, Tenn. – Dec. 2, 2011 – After serving its community as a firehouse for more than 40 years, and with hopes for a neighborhood art center left unrealized, the historic Gallatin Road Fire Hall Engine No. 18 was damaged by a structure fire last night. One person was injured and serious damage inflicted on a building featured by Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) in its [2011 Nashville Nine](#) list of the city's most endangered historic properties. The building was previously designated in 2006 by the Metro Council and Metro Historic Zoning Commission as a Local Landmark, which requires the city to review and approve any renovation and repair work to ensure that it complies with appropriate guidelines.

Today, Tim Walker, Executive Director of the Metro Historical and Historic Zoning Commissions, held an emergency meeting with a representative from North Edgefield Organized Neighbors (NEON), a nonprofit which acquired the property in 2008, and a local contractor. The early prognosis is good: Metro Historic Zoning and the contractor deemed the damage to the 80-year-old brick building can be repaired. A permit will be issued today for a temporary roof covering to protect it from the elements and the addition of plywood over the windows and doors to secure the building and keep people out. A local architect has volunteered to produce plans to guide the repairs and renovation process.

“This fire is a reminder that Nashville’s historic buildings, the places that make Nashville unique, must be maintained and kept from falling into disrepair and neglect,” said HNI president Robbie Jones, who inspected the building last night soon after the fire was extinguished. “A vacant historic building is an accident waiting to happen and more importantly a missed opportunity. Let’s work together to revitalize our endangered historic places and keep communication going between communities, city government agencies, and nonprofits to ensure there are no more injuries, or loss of historic buildings in our city.”

Next steps for the fire hall will be the execution of plans to renovate and refurbish the property, which have been underway since it was sold by its previous owners, Wayne and Linda Hackney, to Wal-Mart in 2004. They used the building for their office, to house antique cars and as a car lot. Wal-Mart in turn gifted the property to NEON in 2004 to be used as a community art center.



2011 (pre-fire)



1949



Metro Archives

This is the fifth Nashville Nine property to be lost or seriously damaged in the last three years. Vacant, neglected buildings – especially during the winter – are too often used as an unsafe refuge and as such pose hazards to individuals and the community. Other Nashville properties lost include the “Silverdene” mansion in East Nashville, Charlotte Pike Church of Christ near Sylvan Park, Murphy School in Midtown and the Nipper’s Sporting Goods neon sign overlooking 8th Avenue downtown.

Historic Nashville will continue to monitor the situation as it progresses. Check out our [website](#), our [facebook](#) page or join our [mailing list](#) to learn more.

About Historic Nashville, Inc.

Established in 1968 and renamed in 1975, Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 membership organization with the mission to “Promote and preserve the historic places that make Nashville unique.” Over the years, HNI has successfully advocated for the preservation of such historic places the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station, Hermitage Hotel, 2nd Avenue & Lower Broadway, and Shelby Street Bridge, as well as neighborhood historic districts throughout the city. In 1982, HNI established the state’s first Preservation Easement program and currently owns easements on 16 historic landmarks with a market value of over \$30 million. HNI hosts an annual membership meeting, publishes a newsletter, maintains a website, hosts educational programs such as tours and the annual “Nashville Nine” list of endangered properties. For additional information, please visit www.historicnashvilleinc.org and our Facebook page.