

DAVID BRILEY  
MAYOR



**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
Sunnyside in Sevier Park  
3000 Granny White Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204  
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**  
**161 Rosa L. Parks Blvd, The Frost Building**  
**May 16, 2018**

**Application:** Historic Landmark Overlay for The Frost Building

**Map and Parcel Numbers:** 09305402400

**Council Districts:** 19

**Applicant:** Uptown Property Holdings, LLC

**Project Lead:** Robin Zeigler, [robin.zeigler@nashville.gov](mailto:robin.zeigler@nashville.gov), 615-862-7970

<p><b>Description of Project:</b> Property owner, Uptown Property Holdings, LLC is requesting that The Frost Building be adopted as a Historic Landmark.</p>	<p><b>Attachments</b> <b>A:</b> Photographs</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Summary:</b> Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council that the Frost Building be adopted as Historic Landmark and the existing design guidelines for Historic Landmarks be used to guide future changes.</p>	



## **Applicable Ordinance:**

### Article III. Historic Overlay Districts

17.36.120 Historic Districts Defined. B. Historic Landmark. An historic landmark is defined as a building, structure, site or object, its appurtenances and the property it is located on, of high historical, cultural, architectural or archaeological importance; whose demolition or destruction would constitute an irreplaceable loss to the quality and character of Nashville and Davidson County; and that meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The historic landmark is associated with an event that has made a significant contribution to local, state or national history;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in local, state or national history;
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic value;
4. It has yielded or may be likely to yielded archaeological information important in history or prehistory; or
5. It is listed or is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Background:**

The Frost Building, constructed in 1913, was listed in the National Register in 1980 for its significant architecture. (The former address was 161 Eighth Avenue North.) According to the nomination, the building figures prominently in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States at the time of the nomination. The Frost Building was the first structure designed and built exclusively to serve as the headquarters building of the Sunday School Board, the denomination's educational and publishing agency, organized in 1891. The building was used intermittently by the same denominational publishing house for a period of 63 years as office space for professional and clerical workers.

The building is a Neo-classical Revival style of architecture, popular in urban buildings of the early 1900's. The stone columns with ornate Corinthian capitals at the top represent the Greek style of architecture. The building was remodeled in the late 1970s without destroying the original atmosphere and décor. The Metro Historical Commission recognized the remodel in May of 1980 with an architectural award. Since then there have been no alterations that would warrant removal of the building from the National Register, according to MHZC Staff.

## **Analysis and Findings:**

The Frost Building is significant as an excellent example of its style of architecture and retains its historic character and features. The property is listed in the National Register of Historic places and so meets criterion 5 of section 17.36.120 of the ordinance.

Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council that the Frost Building be adopted as Historic Landmark and the existing design guidelines for Historic Landmarks be used to guide future changes.

PHOTOGRAPHS



1996



2018