

Savanna Stewart

Two people killed after a historic home in the McSwain neighborhood caught fire.

Word count: 240

### News Story

Two people were killed after a fire at a historic home in the McSwain neighborhood on Tuesday morning.

Ron and Rita McCummings died in a house fire. Three units from the Waco Fire Department responded including Chief Fire Marshall Susan Allman. The fire took three hours to extinguish.

“It appears to have been a faulty electrical cord in the living room,” Allman said. “I just feel so sorry for those poor people and their loved ones left behind.”

The McCummings dog, Sparky, managed to escape through his doggy door.

Neighbor and Waco Humane Society volunteer Marty McDuff said he would take Sparky to the shelter where he eventually would be adopted.

The neighbors were awakened from fire truck sirens. Dana Dans, a neighbor of the McCummings, came outside to watch.

“Black, billowing smoke was pouring from the back of the house when I heard [Sparky] barking,” Dans said. I’m so glad he made it out alive. It’s devastating that Rita and Ron didn’t. They were dear friends of mine and will be missed.”

Pete McSwain, a neighbor that lives at the end of the block, reflected on the loss of such a historic home.

“My family was the first to build on this street when Waco was just becoming a town back in the 1850s,” McSwain said. I can’t believe that beautiful house is just gone. It dates to the 1890s and had original stained-glass windows and hand-carved wood moldings.”