

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



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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Frost Building, ^{9/}The (Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 161 Eighth Avenue, North _____ not for publication

city, town Nashville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Tennessee _____ code _____ county Davidson _____ code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

street & number 127 Ninth Avenue, North

city, town Nashville _____ vicinity of _____ state Tennessee 37203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

street & number Metro Court House

city, town Nashville _____ state Tennessee 37203

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Downtown Nashville Historical-
title Architectural Survey and Analysis has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1976 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency

city, town Nashville _____ state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Frost Building, a four-story, gray granite structure of monumental proportions, is typical of the Neo-classical Revival style. Utilizing the Colossal Order to support an exquisitely detailed entablature, the front facade with three bays consists of two engaged columns which comprise the center bay and pilasters at the corners of the structure which finish out the facade to form the two flanking bays. The south side elevation is comprised solely of pilasters. These engaged columns and pilasters employ the Corinthian Order and rise to a height of forty feet. The entablature with dentils and other various moldings is capped by a balustraded parapet.

The Frost Building, constructed in 1913, is 52 feet wide and 150 feet deep. It fronts on what was then Spruce Street (Eighth Avenue, North) and extends the full block to McLemore Street (Ninth Avenue). With a sloping lot, the original building was two stories higher on the front half. The rear was built of yellow brick with corresponding details to that of the front. In 1924, two stories were added to the rear half, giving the structure a uniform roofline.

During a 1979 renovation by the Sunday School Board, the original high ceilings, the large spacious rooms and hallways, the solid wood doors, brass door hardware, cast iron railings and marble steps on the stairway, and marble baseboards throughout the building were all retained and preserved. In addition, the office of Dr. Frost has been restored, using photographs as a guide. The restoration includes the original solid oak wainscoting, fireplace, wall sconces, and Frost's original desk and chair.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913, 1924 **Builder/Architect** Hart-Gardner, Architect; Selden Breck, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frost Building at 161 Eighth Avenue, North, has significance because it figures prominently in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, largest Protestant denomination in the United States (13 million members). 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 has been used intermittently by the same denominational publishing house for a period of 63 years as office space for professional and clerical workers. As a tribute to Dr. J. M. Frost, founder and first Board executive, his original office has been restored as a part of a major renovation and restoration program just completed. The restoration highlights the Neo-classical Revival style of architecture, popular in urban buildings of the early 1900's. Built on solid bedrock, the building is structurally sound throughout. Its stone columns with ornate Corinthian capitals at the top represent the Greek style of architecture at its best. It retains the distinctive features of an urban office building of the early 1900's. In its renovation process, the Sunday School Board restored these offices to functional use without destroying their original atmosphere and decor. The architectural significance of the Frost Building was affirmed by the Historical Commission of Metropolitan Nashville in May 1980, by presentation of an Architectural Award to the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

J. M. Frost, Sunday School Board History and Work; P. E. Burroughs, Fifty Fruitful Years (1891-1941); Robert A. Baker, The Story of the Sunday School Board; Annual, 1912; Annual, 1913; Annual, 1914; and Property Deed.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately .2158 acres

Quadrangle name Nashville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>519480</u>	<u>4001570</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at NW corner of Furman Alley & 8th Ave., N.; N. with western margin of 8th Ave., N., 56 ft. 9 in.; W. 166 ft. 8 in. to E. margin of 9th Ave., N.; S. with E. margin of 9th Ave., N., 56 ft. 9 in. to NE corner of Furman Alley and said Avenue; and E. with the N. margin of Furman Alley 165 ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lloyd Householder, Director, Office of Communications
The Sunday School Board of the
 organization Southern Baptist Convention date August 15, 1980

street & number 127 Ninth Avenue, North telephone 615/251-2000

city or town Nashville state Tennessee

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 9/24/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce

date 11/25/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Linda Flint McCalland

date 11-24-80

Chief of Registration