

JOU 2303 news story

Taylor Dundore

214 Words

A house fire in historic home killed Waco real estate agents Ron and Rita McCummings on Tuesday, but their dog managed to escape. No neighboring structures were harmed by the fire.

The fire was reported via 911 call at 1:35 a.m. on Tuesday, and was extinguished in three hours by three units from the Waco Fire Department. Chief Fire Marshall Susan Allman said the cause of the fire “appears to have been a faulty electrical cord in the living room,” and the house was destroyed.

Neighbor Dana Dans recalled hearing the McCummings’ dog Sparky barking as the fire was extinguished. He survived by escaping through his doggy door, and will be taken to the shelter by Waco Humane Society volunteer and neighbor Marty McDuff.

“Black, billowing smoke was pouring from the back of the house when I heard [Sparky] barking,” Dans said. Neighbors watched as the fire was extinguished.

The McCummings lived in the red house with white trim in the McSwain neighborhood.

“My family was the first to build on this street when Waco was just becoming a town back in the 1850s. I can’t believe that beautiful house is just gone,” said neighbor Petey McSwain, saddened by the loss of the home.

He plans to rebuild the home as the community mourns.