

Fire Sweeps Historic St. Petersburg Mansion

October 02, 2026



Russian Emergencies Ministry

A major fire swept through a 19th-century landmark in central St. Petersburg on Thursday evening, destroying large sections of an empty historic mansion that is undergoing a multi-million-dollar renovation process to turn it into luxury apartments.

The blaze broke out shortly after 8 p.m. at the Miller Mansion in central St. Petersburg, across from St. Isaac's Cathedral, one of the city's most iconic landmarks. By Friday morning, the mansion was completely [burned out](#).

Emergency services [raised](#) the alarm to a 3-alarm fire as flames spread across 2,000 square meters (21,500 square feet) of the main building and reached the roof of an adjoining structure.

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Authorities reported no injuries or deaths. Firefighters brought the flames under control overnight.

Investigators [suspect](#) welding work being conducted inside without proper safety precautions set off the fire.

The St. Petersburg branch of Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry [said](#) the building's old wooden floorboards, interior partitions and concealed wall cavities allowed the fire to travel rapidly between floors.

"We always consider every lead, starting with aliens," spokesman Andrei Litovka [told](#) reporters late on Thursday.

Originally built in the late 18th century and redesigned in 1880 with Italian Renaissance-style facades, the protected heritage building had been scheduled for a major overhaul.

Earlier this year, a local developer [secured](#) a 768 million ruble (\$9.2 million) loan to restore the site and convert it into a luxury residential development. The project was due to be completed in 2027.

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