

While rumor mills have been circulating- the cause of last night's blaze in Traphill has not been officially determined, according to Wilkes Fire Marshal Nick Hamby.

The single-wide trailer was completely destroyed, Hamby said. The location alone may be the cause of the rumors- it's the same Desperado Road trailer where 41-year-old Randall Whitley is believed to have shot 45-year-old Tim Potts Saturday night.

While Whitley was released from a Wilkes County detention center after posting his \$50,000 bail, he claims no involvement in the blaze. According to Hamby, Whitley asked, "Why would I burn down my own house?"

The occupants of the trailer, Whitley and girlfriend Barbara Cleary, were not home when Traphill and Mountain View Fire Departments were on the scene, just after eight last night. There was no insurance on the home, but Hamby says assistance organizations are being contacted.

Cleary said the home had been having electrical problems. Hamby says he is investigating that possibility, and does not yet know if a possible cause could have been arson.