

Working fire destroys Rankin's home, office

Sep 23, 2008

The old mill home and office of John Rankin was ravaged by fire Tuesday afternoon.

Firefighters from Williamsport and surrounding communities, including Chillicothe, scrambled to control the blaze at the historic structure on state Route 138 south of Williamsport. The property is sited on the banks of Deer Creek.

ATF agents were starting their investigation of the American Hotel fire, which is located between two businesses owned by Rankin – the Movie House and Tuscan Table, and were diverted to the fire scene.

"We are treating these as separate fires," said state fire marshal Shane Cartmill. "It is way to early to speculate if there is a connection."