

Wilkes County Bowling Alley Destroyed By Fire

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NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. —A Saturday night blaze destroyed a landmark bowling alley and skate rink in Wilkes County.

The three-alarm fire was at the Wilkes Lanes at 326 Elkin Highway.

WXII viewers sent in 'u local' photos showing smoke and flames rising from the structure. If you're on our main website, view the photos below. Mobile users, tap here.

The first calls about the fire happened just after 5 p.m.

At least 15 fire departments battled the blaze from the ground and air. Red Cross workers responded to help the approximately 100 firefighters with food and water.

The building has been on Elkin Highway for decades. Lots of WXII Facebook fans said they first learned to skate at the business.

A viewer named Gwyn emailed us and said, "For those of us that grew up here, watching it burn was almost like saying goodbye to an old friend."

There were no reports of injuries. About two dozen people were reportedly inside the building when the fire broke out but were able to get out safely.

Fire crews believe a malfunctioning gas heater was to blame but are still investigating.