



SPRUCE UP: Trish Austen in front of Inglewood's pride and joy, the freshly-decorated Messenger building.

Photo: MARK DWYER

Facelift for Inglewood historic building

DN. 8-1-00

By **ROCHELLE WARRANDER**

A YEAR after part of an historic Inglewood building burned to the ground, the section that was saved has been given a major facelift.

The building on the corner of Richmond and Rata streets, which was designed by famous Taranaki architect Frank Messenger and built in 1910, had been the talk of Inglewood since the upgrade began late last year, McDonald Real Estate Inglewood branch manager Trish Austen said.

Fire ripped through the western end of the building early January 7 last year, with the remaining three shops, including McDonald Real Estate, saved by a firewall.

The upgrade of the Inglewood landmark, which is almost complete, would include a large verandah, which should be finished within the next few weeks, Mrs Austen said.

"It is very exciting for us, and for the Inglewood people. They are delighted with the upgrade.

"They haven't lost an old building, but have gained a new one thanks to the renovations," she said.

Taranaki's new television station, Television Taranaki, would soon occupy the upstairs section of the building, she said.

Heritage funding from the New Plymouth District Council helped with some of the costs of the building's upgrade.

In July last year the council's environment committee agreed to pay up to 50%, but not more than \$22,000, for structural and electrical work to upgrade the building.

It also agreed to pay up to 33%, but not more than \$5300, of the cost of painting its exterior.