

Historical A&P building facade demolished



Hāwera

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A historical building facade listed in the South Taranaki District Council's heritage inventory has been demolished to make way for a supermarket car park.

The frontage of the former Egmont A&P Society building had stood in Nelson St, Hāwera, since 1923.

The red brick front wall was retained following community pressure when the original, smaller Countdown supermarket was built in 1994. And it was still standing on May 8, as local resident Dave Crompton was pleased



The facade of the Egmont Agriculture & Pastoral Society building in Hāwera has been demolished to make way for a new supermarket car park.

to note when he attended the opening of the replacement Countdown. But a few days later the facade had been torn down.

"I never thought for a moment they'd pull it down. There was such a kerfuffle when the building was removed. It had huge history.

"That particular wall could



A new car park is being developed on the corner of Nelson and Union streets where the former A&P Society building once stood.

CATHERINE GROENESTEIN/STUFF

have been an earthquake risk, but developers need to make some provision for retaining these aspects otherwise we'll have no history left at all," he said.

He was annoyed there was no publicity or warning about the facade's imminent removal.

"It was quietly done while no-

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one was around, and it's likely a lot of people aren't aware of it. I don't think people should have to be constantly on their guard. You shouldn't list something as being worthwhile and then allow it to be pulled down."

The South Taranaki District Council heritage inventory lists the facade as having an overall cultural heritage value of 7/20, but it was not on Heritage New Zealand's Register and did not have any formal protection.

An independent commissioner was brought in to make the decisions on the resource consent for the Countdown development

because the South Taranaki District Council had sold some of the land involved and wanted to ensure transparency and avoid any conflict of interest, STDC planning manager Blair Sutherland said.

"At the hearing the Hāwera Community Board expressed a strong desire to see the Egmont A&P Society facade retained in some form and this was considered by the commissioner as part of the consent process."

Because it was not formally protected and given the significant challenges of retaining a single brick facade with no building behind to support it, the independent commissioner did not make retention of the facade a part of the resource consent conditions, Sutherland said.