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# LANDMARK GOES

## 90-YEAR-OLD HOUSE

### LINK WITH MAIL SHIPS

A house which has stood in New Plymouth for nearly 90 years has recently been demolished.

The house, which was last occupied by Miss M. Simpson, was situated near the corner of King and Queen Streets. It is believed to have been built in the fifties of the last century. It was occupied by a postal official, Mr. Henry Bailey, until 1874. Mr. Bailey was responsible for the hazardous task, of bringing mail from ships anchored off the coast, and he was so successful that there was a saying that the mail was safe as long as he was in charge of the delivery. He used to collect the mail, and sort it for delivery to other parts of the colony. In 1875 it was the meeting place of the Loyal Excelsior Lodge.

### INTERESTING FIREPLACE.

As the house has been demolished many discoveries concerning its construction have been discovered. There was evidence that what was an extremely large open fireplace had been bricked in to half its original size, probably to make it safe, as the stonework was cracking. When the section is cleared and the bricked-in part of the fireplace removed, the New Plymouth Old Colonists' Museum authorities hope to take a photograph of the original old fireplace. There is room inside it for a person to stand up.

Cooking must originally have been done on a colonial oven, which was also in the house. This fireplace was so constructed that a fire could be built on top as well as underneath the oven.

Most of the timber of the walls was extremely well preserved, much of it being heart timber, which, from its appearance, was sawn in a pit mill. The floor boards were, however, cut in some large mill, and probably put in as repairs at a later date. The foundations were a queer assortment of puriri piles, rocks and other thick pieces of timber and were stated to be strong enough to support a two-storied house.

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