The Memorial Park Alliance building at 175 Taranaki St on the corner with Martin Square will be demolished to allow the expansion of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

The building was constructed about 1946 and achieved fame as the first Secret Intelligence Service headquarters from 1968 – 1980. It will be pulled down from the inside out so debris will remain inside the fenced work site. Work starts mid-November with completion likely in early December.

Outbuildings behind 175 Taranaki St will be removed so the cleared land will stretch along the southern end of Martin Square from Taranaki St to the lane between Mt Cook School and Pukeahu Park.

Removal of the building and expansion of the park have been in the plans since the start of the Pukeahu Park project in 2012.

About half the cleared land will be landscaped into the park to allow for future development, such as the planned UK memorial. Meanwhile, options for selling the remaining parcel of land are being considered.

**Timeframe for demolition and park expansion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 2015</th>
<th>Dec 2015</th>
<th>Jan 2016 onwards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demolition of 175 Taranaki St begins</td>
<td>Demolition of 175 Taranaki St completed</td>
<td>Site prepared for park expansion</td>
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</tbody>
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The demolition will clear 175 Taranaki St and the area behind it.
Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

Caution needed around demolition site

**Pedestrians**

**PROTECTION:** A gantry will be built above the footpath to protect pedestrians on the Taranaki St side.

**DIVERSION:** The traffic lane beside the kerb will temporarily close for pedestrians to use while the gantry is built – for several days, likely from 9 November.

**CLOSED:** The footpath along the Martin Square side of the building will be closed to pedestrians throughout the entire demolition and parking removed.

**OPEN:** The footpaths in the rest of Martin Square are open to pedestrians.

**CAUTION:** Pedestrians should take care near the entry to the lane between Mt Cook School and Pukeahu Park. Trucks will be entering and exiting the demolition site near this point in Martin Square.

**Vehicles**

**BEST ENTRY/EXIT POINT:** Private vehicles should enter Martin Square from the northern entrance to avoid busy site traffic.

**WORST ENTRY/EXIT POINT:** The southern entrance near the Taranaki St lights will be used by site trucks as their entry and exit point and will get very busy.

**CAUTION:** The lane between Mt Cook School and Pukeahu Park will remain open for school pick-ups and drop-offs. Drivers should be alert to trucks entering the demolition site.

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6 November 2015 | www.nzta.govt.nz/memorialpark
Martin Square routes

A: Private vehicles, please use the northern entrance into Martin Square
B: Footpath closed on this side of demolition site and parking removed
C: Safe to use these footpaths
D: Site trucks will make the southern street very busy

The building at 175 Taranaki St

Built about 1946, 175 Taranaki Street most famously housed New Zealand’s Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) from 1968 to August 1980 and was the scene of anti-war demonstrations during the Vietnam War.

It is understood that the building and land was a compulsory acquisition by the government under the Public Works Act from owner Bradley Buildings Limited and that, prior to 1968, it was a lighting factory and warehouse.

Much is made of suspected SIS secret underground tunnels but the only known tunnel is an opening that was cut in the basement to give access to the adjoining Garrison Hall which housed a basement rifle range. The rifle range was first used for military training and later for training Olympic target shooters and recreational rifle clubs until the hall’s demolition in the early 1980s.

The vault and armoury dating from the former SIS occupation of 175 Victoria St was used as a recording studio during the past 20 years. Munki Studios owner Mike Gibson recorded some of New Zealand’s most successful albums and bands there and the sound quality achieved in the vault was the envy of others.

He was quoted in the Dominion Post earlier this year remembering phone calls in the middle of the night from US sound engineers asking how he got the sound right on the original version of Steriogram’s Walkie Talkie Man.

Memorial Park Alliance took over the main part of the building in early 2013 as its headquarters and site office for the construction of Arras Tunnel and Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

Munki Studio now operates from Park Road Post in Miramar. Memorial Park Alliance has shifted down the road to the ITO Building at 180 Taranaki St.
A look back in time

Taranaki St and Martin Square corner: The yellow arrows show dwellings and businesses in 1934 (photo at left) on the corner site where the building tenanted by Memorial Park Alliance was erected in 1946 (photo at right).

The red arrows show the adjacent large building which is the Garrison Hall (1907) incorporating the old Drill Hall (1870s). The building was demolished in the early 1980s due to its earthquake risk.

A heritage 50m-long brick wall runs beside the 175 Taranaki St building on the Pukeahu Park side, underground for the most part and above ground at its eastern end. Most of the wall is a remnant from the former Garrison Hall basement rifle range - once part of the large-scale 19th and early 20th Century military occupancy of Te Aro and Mt Cook.

The wall was built using bricks made from Mt Cook clay by prisoners at the prison brickworks higher up the hill (now Wellington High School’s car park). The prisoners marked the bricks with the distinctive arrow that distinguished Crown property in that era.

The underground section of the heritage wall is currently protected by 175 Taranaki St’s basement wall which will not be demolished but will remain in place, backfilled with soil to avoid unnecessary disturbance. The remainder of the wall will be buried and protected in the ground. The wall has been recorded in the archaeological report on the park.