

The end of this old house



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

The wrecker's tractor does its deed on the Hugh Evans House near the intersections of La Madrona Drive and Mount Herman Road.

Historic Houses - North County 10-23-93 Scotts Valley landmark demolished

By MAY WONG
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SCOTTS VALLEY — The Hugh Evans House fell Friday.

The near century-old home, one of the last vestiges of the city's early settlers, was demolished to make way for road improvements at the Mount Herman Road access to Highway 17.

"I'm sad to see this and a number of other things go," said Gail Burk, chairwoman of the city's Cultural Resource Preservation Commission.

The razing of the Evans House reduces the number of historical landmarks in Scotts Valley from three to two. Remaining are the Scott House

located near City Hall and the polo stables on the Polo Ranch property owned by Borland International.

The Evans House at 27 Mount Herman Road was the only remnant of the Gothic revival architecture in Scotts Valley.

Historians say the gabled structure was built by Thomas Kilfoyl, one of Scotts Valley's early settlers.

In 1894, Hugh Evans bought the farm house, along with two horses, four cows, one calf and an old spring wagon. As recent as a decade ago, it was known to be a brothel, historians say, and the number of clients were reportedly etched into a bedroom wall.

The structure was transformed into

a heap of wood within half an hour Friday.

Earlier this summer, history buffs fought to save the home but failed.

The house stood in the middle of a proposed road project the city planned more than four years ago. The \$4-million project, called Gateway South, will realign the road and place a signal at the intersection by the traffic-congested entrance and exit onto Highway 17.

City officials say the plans were drawn before the house gained landmark status in 1990. Construction began last week and should be completed next April.

In June, the city's Cultural Resources Preservation Commission denied the city a demolition permit with hopes that the city could find the funds to relocate the historic structure.

But city officials could not find an alternate site and said the cost of moving the house and bringing it up to code was beyond Scotts Valley's financial capability.

The City Council upheld an appeal of the commission's decision in September, giving the go-ahead for the razing. The building had been modified numerous times and lacked historical significance, council members said.