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The site of the former Nelson House Hotel Annex on Wednesday on Market Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. Workers will begin filling the basement with gravel next week. They will then spread seed, topsoil and straw mulch. DARRYL BAUTISTA/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

Nelson parking lot may reopen Jan. 22

Workers remove fencing and equipment, sweep dirt

By Chris Valdez
Poughkeepsie Journal

The parking lot on Market Street where the Nelson House Hotel Annex was demolished is expected to reopen Jan. 22, says Bob Balkind, acting com-

missioner of the Dutchess County Department of Public Works.

Employees are in the process of cleaning up the historic site, removing equipment and temporary fencing and sweeping dirt off the parking lot. The debris caused by the demolition was hauled away earlier this week, Balkind said.

Employees will begin filling the basement with gravel next week. The crew will then spread seed, topsoil and straw

ONLINE

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mulch to help grass sprout and leave the site by Jan. 18, Balkind said.

From there, the county will form a consortium of government officials,

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community groups and other interested parties to develop a plan for what to do with the space. Balkind said he doesn't expect "substantial development for a few years."

Jeanette Rivera, 40, of the Town of Poughkeepsie applauded county efforts to limit the disturbance to the community during the demolition, which was completed Dec. 14.

Rivera, who works next to the site at the Department of Motor Vehicles, said that besides the noise, there was very little pollution of dust and debris. She said workers were quick in knocking down the site. "They did a very good job," she said.

The property on which the Nelson House Hotel sat had hosted an



Dutchess County public works crews will begin filling the former Nelson House Hotel Annex basement with gravel next week. DARRYL BAUTISTA/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

inn since the days of the American Revolution. The Nelson House Hotel opened May 19, 1876, and the Annex added 80 rooms when it was built in 1925, according to Journal archives.

Star Cuomo, 30, of the City of Poughkeepsie said it's a shame the historic site couldn't have been preserved. Cuomo said she would like to see a museum built to honor the history of the site and the

City of Poughkeepsie.

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