

First-of-its-kind survey lists 811 historic sites

by Val Varney
Times suburban reporter

After three years, history has finally been mapped out in King County.

It's in the form of a first-of-its-kind survey that has charted, photographed and cataloged 811 historic sites. Most of them are in the south and east part of the county, and they range from homes to firehouses and barns.

The survey, done by the county's Department of Planning and Community Development, was a long time coming and wended its way through considerable red tape.

In 1973, the county's Environmental Development Commission (now the Policy Development Commission) made recommendations relating to historic sites. Three years later the policies were revised and adopted in an ordinance amending the county's comprehensive plan.

Under the mandates of the ordinance, the historic sites designated in the recently completed survey were to be protected from further growth by provisions in community plans. Where possible, the sites will be given zoning classifications, discouraging demolition or incompatible new development.

The cause of preservation was given about two months ago with the establishment of a nine-member Landmarks Commission, with authority to designate historic sites and, with County Council approval, to prevent unnecessary changes or destruction of the sites surveyed.

Besides the recent survey, the county has prepared a report which includes projects funded for preservation face lifting.

Six projects have been selected for funding from a \$39,000

SOUTH COUNTY

Housing and Community Development block grant. They are:

— Restoration of the Neely Mansion, a Victorian farmhouse, built in 1882 near the Green River at Auburn; \$10,000. Last year \$25,000 was given to finish the restoration work, which includes completion of the roof.

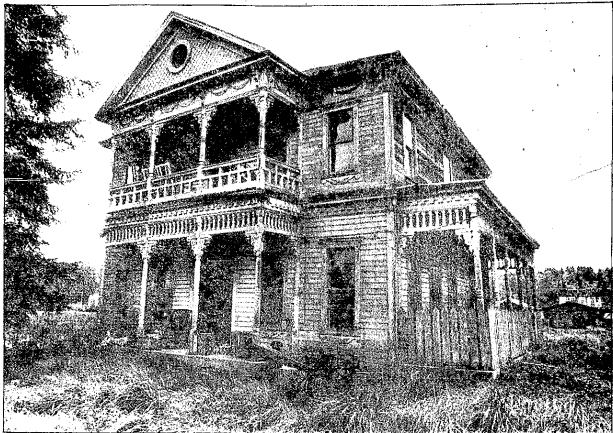
— Relocation of the Muckleshoot Mission Church, built in 1874 as a Catholic mission on the Indian tribe's reservation at Auburn; \$11,500. In 1961 the church was moved to a Federal Way shopping center, where it was to be refurbished as part of a historic village. But the plans fell through and the church fell victim to vandals and the weather. The grant did enable the church to be moved back to the reservation, however, and last year \$8,000 was spent to build a foundation for it.

— Restoration of the Snoqualmie train station; \$14,000. The money was used to reroof the Victorian-style building and to restore the cupola and dormers. Built in 1889, the station is being refurbished by the Puget Sound Railway Historical Association, which has received \$100,000 in federal historic-preservation funds.

— Reconstruction of part of the Black Diamond train station, built in the late 1800s; \$2,500.

— Restoration of the brick siding of the Peier Kirk Building in Kirkland; \$12,000. The 1892 building was purchased by the Creative Arts League in 1981 and has been used for arts-and-crafts programs. The league has also received state archeological and preservation funds.

— Renovation of the Renton Fire Station as a museum; \$8,600. Most of the work was completed last year.



The Neely Mansion, a Victorian farmhouse built in 1882 near the Green River in Auburn, has been selected for restoration under a Housing and Community Development block grant.

A total of \$25,000 in 1979 grant funds is being held to help finance the purchase of the Sutton Farm in Burien, the last 18th Century farmstead in the Highline area. It comprises the original Victorian farmhouse, an orchard and 8 acres. The county Parks Department has been negotiating a purchase agreement with the owner.

Another combined restoration effort of the county's Office of Historic Preservation and the Parks Department is the Marymoor Museum in Redmond.

Situated in the Clise Museum at Marymoor Park, the museum has been operating 10 years. Last year, it was given more space for exhibits and a long-term lease was signed with the county, establish-

ing the museum as a permanent park attraction.

The Marymoor Museum Association has received a grant of \$10,000 to set up exhibits and slides for senior centers and the handicapped.

Grounds around the mansion, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, were set aside last year as a protected historic site in the county's master plan for the park.

Two other sites, Company House No. 75 in Newcastle and the Hollywood Farm residence and grounds in Woodinville, have also been accepted in the national register. A third, the Pickering Barn in Issaquah, will be considered for acceptance in August.

The county has also made a \$15,000 appropriation for grants of \$500 each to the 26 historical societies and nonprofit museum

groups in the county, to help buy equipment and improve exhibits. Last year the county published a guide to historic sites and offers photographic-slide programs to schools and other groups.

In trying to consolidate historic public records that originated in King County, negotiations are going on to use the former Sunset Junior High School near the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, a school the Port of Seattle now owns. Such documents have been stored as far away as Bellingham and Ellensburg.

Next month the preservation office will make recommendations for other projects to receive restoration funds.

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