



The Marymoor Museum in Redmond is situated in the Clise Mansion at Marymoor Park. The mansion is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Grounds around the mansion were set aside last year as a protected historic site in the county's master plan for the park.

## EASTSIDE

# Saving a piece of the past for today

King County's first survey of historical sites list 811 entries in east and south

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Times Eastside bureau

A King County survey, begun in 1977, has tagged 811 historic sites, most of them in the south and east.

The sites, ranging from homes to firehouses and barns, have been mapped, photographed and cataloged in what is the first county survey of historic sites.

The survey was concentrated along the Interstate 5 corridor, where there is concentrated growth. A progress report has been prepared which includes the projects funded for preservation work and a background of county involvement.

In 1973, the county's Environmental Development Commission, now known as the Policy Development Commission, made recommendations to the county relating to historic sites. Three years later, the policies were revised and adopted in an ordinance as an amendment to the county's comprehensive plan. The ordinance required that the county's Department of Planning and Community Development conduct the survey.

The position of historic-preservation officer, now held by Mary Medendall, was created within the department to carry out the ordinance and consolidate the heritage programs.

Historic sites are to be protected from new growth by provisions in community plans. Where possible, the sites will be given zoning classifications discouraging demolition or incompatible new development.

Boosting the cause of the preservation was 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. Two years ago, a \$59,000 grant was given to the county to restore and rehabilitate historic sites. Six projects were selected for aid. They are:

— \$10,000 for restoration of the Neely Mansion a Victorian farmhouse, built in 1892 near the Green River at Auburn. Last year, \$25,000 was given to finish the restoration work, which included completion of the roof.

— \$14,500 for the relocation of the Muckleshoot Mission Church, built in 1874 as a Catholic mission on the Indian tribe's reservation at Auburn.

In 1981, the church was moved to a Federal Way shopping center, where it was to be refurbished as part of an historic village. The plans fell asunder, however, and the church fell victim to vandals and the weather.

The grant did enable the church to be moved back to its restoration and last year \$8,000 was spent to build a foundation for it.

— \$14,000 for restoration of the Snoqualmie train station; the money was used to re-roof 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.

— \$2,500 for reconstruction of part of the Black Diamond train station, built in the late 1890s.

— \$10,000 for restoration of the brick siding of the Peter Kirk Building in Kirkland.

The 1892 building was purchased by the Creative Arts League in 1962 and has been used for arts and crafts programs. The league also received funds from the state office of archeology and state preservation.

— \$3,000 for renovation of the Renton fire station as a museum. Most of the work was completed last year.

A total of \$25,000 in 1979 grant funds is being held to help finance the purchase of the Suttan Farm in Burien, the last 19th Century farmstead in the Highline area.

According to the county's report, that property includes the original Victorian farmhouse, an orchard and five acres. The County Parks Department has been negotiating a purchase agreement with the owner.

Other aid to acquire the property includes Forward Thrust neighborhood park funds, historic-preservation grants and volunteer support.

Another continued restoration effort of the preservation office and the department is the Marymoor Museum in Redmond.

Situated in the Clise Mansion at Marymoor Park, the museum has been operating 10 years. Last year, the museum was given more space for exhibits and a long-term lease was signed with the county, establishing the museum as a permanent park facility.

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

The mansion is listed in the National Register

of Historic Places. Grounds around the mansion 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 been accepted in the national register. A third, the Pickering Barn in Issaquah, will be considered for acceptance in August.

The county has made a \$15,000 appropriation for grants of \$300 to each county historical society and nonprofit museum group, to help buy equipment and improve exhibits of museums.

In other activities, the county and the Seattle Museum of History and Industry sponsored a series of training seminars for historic societies and museum volunteers, and hired a curator of history to work with the county's 26 societies and museums.

The curator will provide free consulting services to these groups; answer questions and have access to staff members at the Museum of History and Industry.

In trying to consolidate historic public records that originated in King County, negotiations are going on to use the former Sunset Junior High School, which the Port of Seattle now owns. Such documents have been stored in Bellingham, Ellensburg and near the Courthouse River.

Last year the county published a guide to historic sites and offers photographic slide programs to schools and other groups.

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