

Pieces of history are saved

by Herb Belanger
Times suburban reporter

Hollywood Farm in Woodinville, Marymoor Farm in Redmond, the Aaron Neely Mansion in Auburn, the Ezra Meeker Mansion in Puyallup and the Stimson-Green House in Seattle have something in common — they are on the National Register of Historic Places, and won't fall under the wrecker's ball.

But the Thurston Mansion, a Medina estate fronting on Lake Washington was not so fortunate. The sprawling Tudor-style home was bulldozed last July to make way for six building lots on the 4.65 acres of land.

The present owners of the Thurston property, Ivor Jones and Gary Merino, bought the estate for about \$2 million from Ellen Thurston in 1979, but shortly after the purchase applied for permits to demolish it and subdivide the property for development.

Art Skolnik, a Seattle architect who runs The Conservation Co. specializing in the preservation of old buildings, said residents of the area were unsuccessful in trying to get the building designated as a

historic landmark and save it from destruction. Unoccupied while the owners sought the permits, the building was extensively vandalized, according to Skolnik, who termed it "demolition by neglect."

In August, a preliminary plat for the site was approved by the Medina City Council, and eventually six new homes will be built on the site of what was one of the most sumptuous mansions on the Eastside.

One fine estate not on the national register whose future is unclear is that of the late Louis Marsh in Kirkland. Built in 1929 with handsome details, such as Jon Erickson woodcarvings, the 7,000-square-foot house was bequeathed to the Children's Home Society of Washington by Marsh, one of the first engineers employed by The Boeing Co. Marsh died last year.

Phil Swenson, a spokesman for the Children's Home Society, said a study had been made and it has been determined the Marsh home could not be used for the society's programs.

"We must provide service for

needy children of the state and must maximize our resources," Swenson said. Consequently, the property is up for sale. A valuation of \$2 million was set, "but in the present real-estate market it appears \$2 million is not quite attainable."

The agency "may lower its sights. We are quietly marketing it and are ready to listen to any reasonable proposal," Swenson said.

But he said the agency would be concerned about what use a new owner would make of the site since there is community interest in what happens to the property.

"But just to keep it from deteriorating, maintaining the grounds, paying the taxes and providing someone to stay there as caretaker," costs nearly \$20,000 a year, Swenson said.

No definite use has been proposed yet for Hollywood Farm, the former Frederick Stimson summer home at the Ste. Michelle Vintners in Woodinville.

The building is owned by the winery and occasionally is used for tastings, meetings and company functions, according to Fay

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This was a letter from Evered to which Washington, D.C., did respond. It came from Harold G. DeVoe, acting director, Office of Inventions and Small Scale Tech-

DeVoe submitted a list of some of the 1980 grants to Washington.

But, Evered had some ques-

much larger are the chances of this country going to put up with this BUNK," Evered wrote the president in his still unanswered letter.



Kirkland's Marsh home is up for sale.

Peter Liddell / Seattle Times