

Neely Mansion is second county landmark

by Herb Belanger
Times South bureau

AUBURN

The Aaron Neely Mansion in Auburn is the second building to be designated a King County landmark.

The finding last week by the King County Landmarks Commission protects the building from changes or alterations without prior approval of the commission.

The commission also has made a preliminary determination of historical significance for the Newcastle Cemetery near Lake Boren. The commission will have a public hearing at its May 6 meeting, after which it will make its final decision.

The commission also approved some work to be done at the James W. Clise residence at Marymoor Park near Redmond. The residence was the first property to

receive landmark designation. The commission has agreed to allow Arbor Day tree planting in accord with the original homestead plan, and painting of the windmill.

Both the planting and the painting will be done by citizens or service organizations, with the King County Parks Department furnishing the paint.

Kjris Lund, administrator for the commission and county landmarks preservation officer, said the commission also will consider painting and reroofing the residence in the future. The funding will come from block grants and the work, if authorized, will go to bids.

On April 28, the commission

will have an all-day tour of the northern part of King County to inspect 10 sites under consideration as landmarks.

The presentation on Newcastle Cemetery was made by Jean Bacon, who has made an extensive historical study of the old mining area. Owned by the Newcastle Cemetery Association, the cemetery contains the graves of a number of persons associated with the coal-mining towns which once flourished.

The cemetery, begun in 1879, contains a number of graves of members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which was active in the mining towns. Typical of some of the gravestones is that of "William J., husband of Elizabeth Lewis. Killed at New Castle. Dec. 4, 1885. Aged 40 years," and that of "W.T. Scott. Killed in New Castle

Mine. Feb. 2, 1884. 28 years."

The names on the gravestones reflect the changing nature of the mining towns, the earlier Newcastle composed largely of persons of English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh backgrounds, and a relocated Newcastle, dating to the 1890s, with residents who had ties with the Finnish and Italian communities.

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