by Herb Belanger
Times suburban reporter

The King County Landmarks Commission in its final public hearing held at Marymoor Park near Redmond last week, the commission declared the James W. Clise residence at 5201 148th Ave. NE to be a county landmark.

When James W. Clise, Seattle banker and president of the first trust company in this state, was first used as a hunting lodge. In 1927, after it was built, it became the Clise family's year-round residence.

The commission's final determination on the historical significance of the residence will be made March 11, 1982, its first public meeting after tomorrow's hearing.

The conclusion also will announce its final decision on the status of the Morash House in Highline.

The Morash House was the first of the county residences considered for landmark designation by the commission in a meeting Nov. 22. The emergency meeting was called because of pending zoning reclassification and subdivision appeals involving the 9.5-acre tract on which the house stands.

Granting those requests could have affected the status of the building.

The commission's preliminary determination was that the house had historical significance and additional information was received by the Jan. 15 public hearing when Kirk Lund, historic preservation officer, recommended its designation as a community landmark.

Meanwhile, after a public hearing on a request to rezone the property from single-family residential to a hearing examiner recommended that the County Council deny the change. But Stephen Araki, attorney for the owners of the Morash House, Marian Kurosu and her son, Roy, submitted a new proposal whereby the half-acre on which the house stands would be omitted from the rezoning classification.

A rehearing was held Jan. 28 before the Seattle Times can get on the county's Register of Historic Places would be a public hearing, followed by a Landmarks Commission recommendation to the County Council.

Built in 1894 by Aaron Neely, the two-story Neely mansion on the Auburn-Black Diamond Road already is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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