Clise home at Marymoor designated a landmark

by Herb Belanger
Times suburban reporter

The James W. Clise residence at Marymoor Park near Redmond is the first property to be designated a landmark by the King County Landmarks Commission.

The designation made Thursday and means that any proposed alterations to the building must be reviewed by the commission.

The Clise residence, which now houses a museum, was built by a Seattle banker and president of the first trust company in the state as a hunting lodge in 1907. Three years later, the Clise family moved there permanently and operated it as Willowmoor Farm, famous for its award-winning herd of Ayrshire cattle and Morgan horses.

In other commission action, a motion to designate the 72-year-old Morasch House in the Highline area failed. But the house subsequently was given community-landmark status, which does not provide the same protection as does the county-landmark designation.

Stephen T. Araki, the attorney for Marion Kurosu and her son, Roy, who own Morasch property, had indicated the owners would appeal to the County Council over actions taken by the commission.

The Aaron Neely Mansion, built in 1894 in Auburn, also is being considered for county-landmark designation.