L. Mayer Residence 10

8

Musiel House & Saw Mill

All information contained in this brochure is based on the most current and available data secured from a variety of sources. The City of SeaTac History Committee is actively soliciting additional historical information for several interpretive projects currently being planned.

Photos unless noted are part of the City of SeaTac Archives.

SeaTac
Historical Tour Guide

CITY OF SEATAC

SeaTac: A Rich and Diverse History of People and Events

The George Wilcox Home and Family – *Built in approximately 1900 this house was located near 16th South which is now the site of the North Satellite of the SeaTac International Airport. Wilcox owned the first Blacksmith shop in the area. Photo courtesy of Highline Historical Society.*

This brochure highlights several significant historical sites in the City of SeaTac. These sites contribute to the historical understanding and identity of this unique area.

Special thanks to the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission for funding and to the many individuals that have participated in the development of this brochure.

1 Military Road
This was originally part of the Fort Steilacoom-Fort Bellingham military road, and was built to facilitate travel between the forts. The rugged unpaved road was constructed between 1853 and 1860 and has remained a principal road for decades.
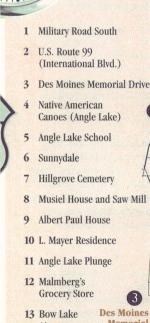
2 U.S. Route 99 (International Boulevard)
U.S. Route 99 was re-named International Blvd. in honor of the Goodwill Games in 1992.
By the early 1900s, local settlers farmed produce and dairy products that were sold at Pike Place Market. The farm road eventually became part of U.S. Route 99, cutting through SeaTac on the existing road. Creation of the highway helped further develop many businesses and improved the economy in the area. In 1930s, an area east of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was known as the Monticello Poultry Plant.

WASHINGTON US 99

3 Des Moines Memorial Drive
In 1916, this road was paved with bricks and acquired the name Des Moines Way Highway. In 1921 the Seattle Garden Club planted the elm trees that line the road, in memory of soldiers from Washington State who died in World War I. A memorial marker is located at 156th and Des Moines Memorial Drive.

4 Native American Canoes - Angle Lake
Two Native American canoes, the oldest of which is estimated to be up to 300 years old, were discovered at the bottom of Angle Lake. William Westlake Walker discovered them in 1989–1990 while scuba diving in the lake. Duwamish and Mukleshoot tribal people had utilized the area since ancient times. The SeaTac area was traversed by Native American groups traveling between saltwater shorelines and the interior.

Historical Locations in SeaTac

1 Military Road South
2 U.S. Route 99 (International Blvd.)
3 Des Moines Memorial Drive
4 Native American Canoes (Angle Lake)
5 Angle Lake School
6 Sunnydale
7 Hillgrove Cemetery
8 Musiel House and Saw Mill
9 Albert Paul House
10 L. Mayer Residence
11 Angle Lake Plunge
12 Malmberg's Grocery Store
13 Bow Lake Airport
14 Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
15 Seven Gables Restaurant

Please Note: Homes are not open for public viewing. Please do not approach the homeowners for a personal tour of their homes.

SeaTac: A Rich and Diverse History of People and Events

5 Angle Lake School

Located at 19215 28th Avenue South.

In 1893, the original Angle Lake School was built on South 192nd Street and 28th Avenue South. The school was rebuilt in 1937 and became part of the Highline School District in 1941.

6 Sunnydale

Sunnydale was the name of the first pioneer homestead, developed by the Kelly family in the early 1870s. By 1900 a small town was developed around 16th between 144th and 155th. Sunnydale was a productive agricultural area that had significant settlement of Japanese-Americans after the turn of the century.

7 Hillgrove Cemetery

200th Street South – between 15b & 16th Streets (private property, not open to the public at this time)

Frederick Kindling donated the land for this private family cemetery. The first burial was February, 1900. Burials include pioneers and Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I Veterans. It was designated a Community Landmark on July 8th, 1982.

Photo by G. Van Notme

8 Musiel House and Saw Mill

Located at 5118 South 178th Street. (not open for public viewing)

The original house was built in 1901. P.J. Musiel, the property's second owner built and operated a sawmill. In 1918, the Musiels raised the house up and added another floor underneath the original structure. This house is a good example of the simple architecture of the working families in this area in the early 1900s.

9 Albert Paul House

Located at 839 South 157th Place. (not open for public viewing)

Albert Paul and Gardner Clark homesteaded 160 acres near South 160th Street and 16th Avenue South, on land that later became Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. They raised hops, a popular crop in the area in the 1890s. Albert Paul purchased the property on which the house is located in 1919. This house was built by one of the earliest settlers in the Sunnydale area and was a good example of early residential architecture in the area.

10 L. Mayer Residence

Located at 15025 Military Road South. (not open for public viewing)

In 1912, the location of the Mayer residence was known as Riverton Heights, and had a population of 200. By 1930, the area was divided into numerous small lots and many businesses were located along Military Road. In 1930 L. Mayer took title to the property from Joseph Heller and built the house on it about 1935. There is a cabinet shop located on a lot in front of the residence that was associated with the Mayer's business.

11 The Plunge - Angle Lake

Angle Lake Park is open to the public during daylight hours (posted at park)

The Reepleog family, who lived at Angle Lake in the 1920s, took advantage of the growing interest in the lake's beauty and recreation opportunities and built a resort that featured tent houses, a dance hall, a three foot spring board for diving and a twenty-foot tower above the swimming area. The lake resort was a very popular place to go for the Seattle area and local residents. The site is now part of Angle Lake Park.

12 Malmberg's Grocery Store

This store, like others built in the 1930's, was a roadside grocery with gas pumps in front of the store. The Malmberg family operated the grocery store at the corner of South 188th Street and Highway 99 (International Boulevard) from 1931-1972.

13 Bow Lake Airport

This is the original location of the Seattle-Tacoma Int'l. Airport.

In the early 1930s, two local aviators, Dean Spencer and George Wolff, decided to open a private airport where they could fly their planes and offer flying lessons. Spencer and Wolff left their business to become military pilots in World War II. In 1942 it became the site of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

14 Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

The cities of Seattle and Tacoma recognized the need for a major airport for the Pacific Northwest. In March of 1942, the Port of Seattle Commission voted to build and operate a major commercial airport serving the Puget Sound area. The Commission purchased the Bow Lake Airport and developed it into the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. It opened officially in 1947.

15 Seven Gables Restaurant

Located at 20842 International Blvd.

In 1935, during the Great Depression, Sam Hassen took advantage of the new federal highway (U.S. Route 99) by building a gas station. The Hassen family then opened Seven Gables restaurant to serve local residents and travelers and operated until 1947. The establishment is currently called the VIP Tavern.

Airport photos courtesy of Port of Seattle

Riverton Heights School
Photo courtesy Highline Historical Society

Malmbergs Store

Albert Paul House

Seven Gables Restaurant
Early Area Loggers

Angle Lake Plunge

Captions Clockwise from top left: The Riverton Heights Grammar School, 1909; the Malmberg Grocery and Gas Station; The Albert Paul House; visitors enjoying the Angle Lake Plunge; Old growth forest that was cleared by early loggers (date unkown); and The Seven Gables Restaurant.