

**Historic Property
Inventory Report for**

Hillgrove Cemetery

at ~1651 S 200th St, Sea-Tac, WA 98188

LOCATION SECTION

Field Site No. 844

OAHP No. KI00889

Historic Name: Hillgrove Cemetery

Common Name: Hillgrove Cemetery

Property Address: ~1651 S 200th St, Sea-Tac, WA 98188

Comments:

County King Township/Range/EW T22R04E Section 5 1/4 Sec SW 1/4 1/4 Sec SW Quadrangle DES MOINES

Coordinate Reference

Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Polygon

Acquisition Code: Digitized Source

Sequence: 1 Easting: 551874

Northing: 5252369

Sequence: 2 Easting: 551870

Northing: 5252312

Sequence: 3 Easting: 551810

Northing: 5252317

Sequence: 4 Easting: 551814

Northing: 5252366

Tax No./Parcel No.

Plat/Block/Lot

Supplemental Map(s)

Acreage

0422049025

0.92

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Survey Name: Cemetery

Field Recorder: C. Sundberg

Date Recorded: 1/6/2010

Owner's Name:

Owner Address:

City/State/Zip:

Hillgrove Cem. Assoc. c/o
Jim Lingwood

201 SW 176TH ST

Seattle, WA 98166

Classification: Site

Resource Status

Comments

Within a District? No

Survey/Inventory

Contributing?

National Register Nomination:

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Funerary - Cemetery

Current Use: Funerary - Cemetery

Plan:

No. of Stories:

Structural System:

View of central area looking SW

taken 1/6/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):

Comments:

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Changes to plan:	Changes to interior:	Style	Form/Type
Changes to original cladding:	Changes to other: <u>Moderate</u>		
Changes to windows:	Other (specify): <u>Vandalismn. overgr</u>		
Cladding	Foundation	Roof Material	Roof Type

NARRATIVE SECTION

Date Of Construction: c. 1900

Study Unit	Other
<u>Other</u>	<u>Funerary</u>

Architect:

Builder:

Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

**Statement of
Significance**

Hillgrove Cemetery is one of forty community-type cemeteries in King County but has suffered some vandalism and neglect. The Hillgrove Cemetery is a small, relatively intact example of a community cemetery associated with early settlement in the area. It was designated a King County Community Landmark in 1982. The cemetery's diversity of marker types and styles is limited and has suffered vandalism and some neglect. It is significant for its association with individuals and families important in the early settlement and development of the surrounding community. The cemetery is a community cemetery owned and operated by the Hillgrove Cemetery Association and continues to accept burials of plot owners, although the most recent burial was in 2001.

The Hillgrove Cemetery was established c. 1900 by residents of the surrounding Highline/Des Moines area on land donated by Fred Kinkling. Kinkling and Judge S. B. Vrooman homesteaded part of the area now occupied by the airport. David Eley homesteaded in the Manhattan area, started the first local lumber mill, and helped organize the first churches and schools in the area as well. His daughter-in-law Emma was the first person buried in the cemetery, in 1889. Other families involved with the cemetery were farmers, fishermen, and early business owners. A few grave markers date to 1889 and the early 1890s, so burials began before the cemetery was formally established. The Hillgrove Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1923.

The cemetery is platted into 57 plots of ten graves each, arranged in a grid of north-south rows. This pattern is not immediately evident now, although it is clear in the 1936 aerial photos of the site. Periodic restoration efforts have been undertaken by local Boy Scouts, school groups and the Cemetery Association, with partial support from King County.

Many early settlers in the area are buried in the cemetery, including pioneers in the nearby Manhattan area of Burien (Dunbar, Eley and Lindahl) and several Civil War veterans, including S. B. Vrooman, and three others.

**Description of
Physical
Appearance**

The Hillgrove Cemetery occupies a 0.92 acre rectangular parcel on the south side of South 200th St in SeaTac, just west of the planned southern route of SR509. The cemetery is on the east-sloping side of the valley formed by Des Moines Creek and is approached directly from the street on its north side. Surrounding parcels are undeveloped cut-over lands owned by the Port of Seattle that have regrown.

The Hillgrove Cemetery is a small, minimally maintained property entered through a cyclone fence gate and steel pipe arch on its north side. Virtually all of the property has burials, although not all plots are filled. The short entry drive slants up from the road, dividing the northern half of the cemetery into an upper and a lower terrace. Overall the cemetery slopes downward to the east/southeast at about seven percent. The property is bounded on the north by a fence and road and on its other sides by fences installed by

the Port and native vegetation on undeveloped land. Loosely arranged Douglas Fir trees line the road to the north and the west and south edges. Interior circulation by car and service vehicles is limited to the short entry drive.

Landscape features are limited to retaining walls along the short internal drive that climbs from the road, scattered graveside plantings of boxwood, lilac, rhododendrons, spiraea and other ornamentals. Douglas Firs and a holly tree are scattered in the middle and toward the edges of the cemetery, casting much of it in shade. Development and burials appear to have begun in the northern part of the property and spread south.

Family plots are scattered throughout the cemetery, delineated by concrete curbs now overgrown with grass, or in a few cases, concrete blocks. An estimated 350 persons are buried in the cemetery, according available records. Grave markers generally face east and range in date from 1889 to 2001 and are made of sandstone, granite, marble, concrete and metal in a variety of styles, including tablets, pulpits, square columns, and flat and raised lawn markers, and individual and family blocks. Decorative motifs include flowers and plants, crosses, an anchor, rusticated stones, a scroll and book, and heavenly gates.

The condition of the cemetery is mixed, with many missing markers, several leaning markers, overgrown areas, and some evidence of vandalism (broken and tipped markers). Although periodically maintained, at least one older markers that was originally vertical has been laid flat. Several markers are broken and several bases are without markers.

**Major
Bibliographic
References**

Angotti, Laura. "Hillgrove Cemetery," HistoryLink Essay 2045, http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=2045, accessed November 10, 2010.
Dorpat, Paul and Walt Crowley. "SeaTac - Thumbnail History," HistoryLink Essay 4181, May 31, 2003. Online at: http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=4181, accessed January 28, 2010.
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Schaeffer, Scott. "Hard Work Allows For Nice Memorial Day At Historic Pioneer Cemetery," May 30, 2010 online at: <http://www.waterlandblog.com/2010/05/30/hard-work-allows-for-nice-memorial-day-at-historic-pioneer-cemetery/>, accessed September 15, 2010.
Van Notric, Geraldine L. Hillgrove Cemetery landmark nomination, prepared for the King County Landmarks Commission, 1982. np.