



King County
State of Washington

Randy Revelle, County Executive
Department of Planning and
Community Development
Holly Miller, Director

King County Register of Historic Places — Nomination Form

1. Name

historic Hillgrove Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 200th St. S. between 15th and 16th Streets not for publication

city, town Seattle (Highline Dist.) vicinity of congressional district

state Washington code county King code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name (Administered by) The Hillgrove Cemetery Association

street & number c/o Mrs. Melanie Draper
23258 Marine View Drive South

city, town Zenith vicinity of state Washington 98188

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Assessor

street & number King County Courthouse

city, town Seattle state Washington

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical Sites -- Burien Centennial
1880 - 1980 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Published by the Southwest King County Arts Council federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town Highline Community College
Midway, Washington 98031 state

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Hillgrove consists of 57 individually owned plots, most with space for 10 graves. Not all the sites are used and the most recent burial was September 1980.

An urn garden runs along one side.

Access is by a narrow driveway between the rockery frontage on 200th St. The remaining three sides are enclosed by a 6 ft. chain-link fence erected by the Port of Seattle, whose land abuts the Cemetery on those three sides.

There is a wide variety of tombstones, some are not upright.

Native plants and trees, blooming annuals abound throughout and the grounds are very park-like, now that the Pioneer Telephone Goup have made it their project twice a year to clean and mow the lawn.

The Hillgrove Cemetery Association is active in the upkeep the rest of the time, and hopes to have a sign identifying the site and a security post in the driveway, soon.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Ethnic
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hillgrove Cemetery is the link to the ethnic background of the people first settling the Highline/Des Moines area. The names on the tombstones represent the foundation of the economic background, development of mills, transportation systems, building of roads, service in the military and the cemetery is the only one in this area that shows a variety of tombstone architecture, from the most rude, homemade to a fine example of an onion-top stone and a fine black marble.

The history of south King County was inextricably involved in the early pioneers. Although few in number, it was through their efforts piers and docks, and roads were built, schools, and churches were established and businesses came into being. A number of the families were of Middle-European background and proved themselves industrious and frugal. Their produce and chickens were carried to Seattle and helped begin the Seattle Market which later developed into the Pike Place Market. It was also these farmers' wagons that helped build the first highways.

David Elsey and his sons first homesteaded in the Sunnysdale area, building the first sawmill on the creek that crosses 1st Avenue about 162. His son, John C. Elsey then moved to Des Moines where in 1984 he built a mill at the mouth of Des Moines Creek which made bread boards and wooden bowls. John was involved in many activities in Des Moines. With several others he bought up the original townsite of Des Moines in 1903. Along with James A. Elsey he donated 5 lots on 9th and 22nd for a Methodist Church; this property is still the nucleus for the present church. John C. Elsey incorporated the first telephone company in Des Moines in 1975. He was also active in the Commercial Club and helped build the building which is now the Odd Fellow Hall. He was a charter member of the Des Moines Odd Fellow Lodge #305. One of the founders of the Des Moines Grange #471, and was on the Champion Baseball Team of 1898.

James C. Elsey was written up on the three volume addition of Bagley's History of King County.

His wife, Emma, was the first person buried in Hillgrove Cemetery. Fred Kinkling donated the property on which the cemetery is located. He, along with Judge Vrooman homesteaded the area of Sea-Tac Airport. Mr. Vrooman did a lot of legal work for the residents of Des Moines and was instrumental in settling the property dispute over the original Townsite of Des Moines.

A.D. Dunbar homesteaded in the Manhattan area and furnished much of the produce for the Seattle market. (188th and 1st Ave. S.) Some of the family still lives in the area.

Another homesteader was a Mr. Utz. He, too, furnished produce for the Seattle market. His homestead was in the area of 192 and Des Moines Way.

On the opposite corner lived R. A. Ellington. He and his sons established the Suburban Bus Lines, buying out the Neal Bros. who had a small company going. They also later took over the truck-hauling business after the Des Moines highway was continued to Des Moines and Zenith. 192 and Des Moines Way was known as Ellington's Corners for many years.

The Markwell family buried in the cemetery came early to Des Moines. They built the first dock in Des Moines, at what is now the north end of the marina. From it they loaded cord wood, which they cut, onto the early steamers who came, bringing passengers, freight and mail. Mem enjoyed working for James Markwell in his shingle bolt mill because he paid good wages.

The Fanchers and the Ellingtons were instrumental in the building of the Angle Lake Presbyterian Church, having donated the property.

Chris Reeploeg had a large area of land on Angle Lake which was a famous swimming hole in the 1900's and up until it was sold by his family to the county for a park. When Reeploegs' owned the land it was called Angle Lake Plunge.

The Ellingtons', Fanchers', and Utzs' were active in Grange work and helped organize two different granges in the Sunnydale-Angle Lake area.

Mr. Seiler, a Swiss, homesteaded in the Zenith area. His son-in-law, Mr. Wilson, built the first hotel at Zenith at the foot of 240th St. and then built a large dance hall which was used for many community gatherings during World War I.

Mr. Gudrun Vigusson, an Icelander who settled in Des Moines, had the first laundry.

Mr. H. Draper, known later as Daddy Draper, first came to this state in 1900 where he became interested in the Burley Cooperative Brotherhood. He returned to Michigan, but came back to Seattle in 1907. He first planned to establish a Children's Home there, but moved it to Des Moines in 1908. When a hotel became available he bought it and established his home in it, and it remained there until his death in 1927. He believed every child could learn to play a musical instrument and taught his children to play something. He was a familiar sight on the Seattle streets in the 1920's with his children's band called the Jolly Entertainers.

Another colorful character buried in the cemetery is "Fisherman" Charlie Knudson told many tales of his adventures in the South Pacific, but no one ever went hungry who knew him. His clams and fish helped many a family have a full meal, especially when they didn't know where their next meal was coming from. When he died his "buddies" collected the money to buy him a nice stone for his grave.

Mr. Engeset, who originally came from Norway, bought 102 acres which included part of the Des Moines Creek and the section of the Des Moines Highway just north of Des Moines. He built a small mill on the creek. From the lumber he built tomato crates. He also dairy farmed and raised tomatoes.

A Mr. Robbins, who lived on what is now Highway 99 and about 210th was a cigar maker.

Mr. Abbott was a Methodist preacher. In 1919 he served Angle Lake and Des Moines, bicycling to both churches.

Serving in the armed forces were the following:

S.B. Vrooman, Civil War	Alex Carmichel, not sure what war
E.S. Clayborne, Civil War	Wm. H. Pennington, "
Jasper A. Coomon, Civil War	Robert Pennington, "
David S. Elsey, Civil War	Wm. Ferguson, 1st World War
	Edwin Campbell, World War I
Ralph B. Cotton, World War II	Everett Elsey, World War I
Chris Reeploeg, (father of Gerald)	Gerald Reeploeg, World War I
German army before 1900.	

If you remember that up until a few years ago this was a sparsely settled area, first dependent on boats to get around, their couldn't be too many people who were of major importance. Every one buried in Hillgrove Cemetery was important to his community and contributed to make that area a better place to live.

References:

Bagley's History of King County, 4 Vol.
Draper, Melanie Timber, Tides and Tales
Utopia's on Puget Sound by Charles Piérce LeWarne
Good Will Paper published at the Des Moines Children's Home
Portage -- article on "Daddy" Draper-- Fall of '81
Clippings from the Seattle Times on "Fisherman" Charlie and "Daddy" Draper

9. Major Bibliographical References

THE MANY ROADS TO HIGHLINE by Melba Eyler & Evelyn Yeager (page 43)

TIMBER, TIDES AND TALES by Melanë Draper (page 68-69)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .92 acre

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale

UMT References

A Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing

D Zone Easting Northing

E Zone Easting Northing

F Zone Easting Northing

G Zone Easting Northing

H Zone Easting Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification Located on 200th Street is is 210' on the street and 190' deep. It is in the south clear zone of the Sea-Tac Airport surrounded by Port of Seattle acquired land. It, however, is a compatable use in the clear zone.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geraldine L. Van Notric, Member

organization Hillgrove Cemetery Board date April 5, 1982

street & number 17023 - 34th Ave. South telephone 243-9737

city or town Seattle state Washington

12. King County Landmarks Commission Certification