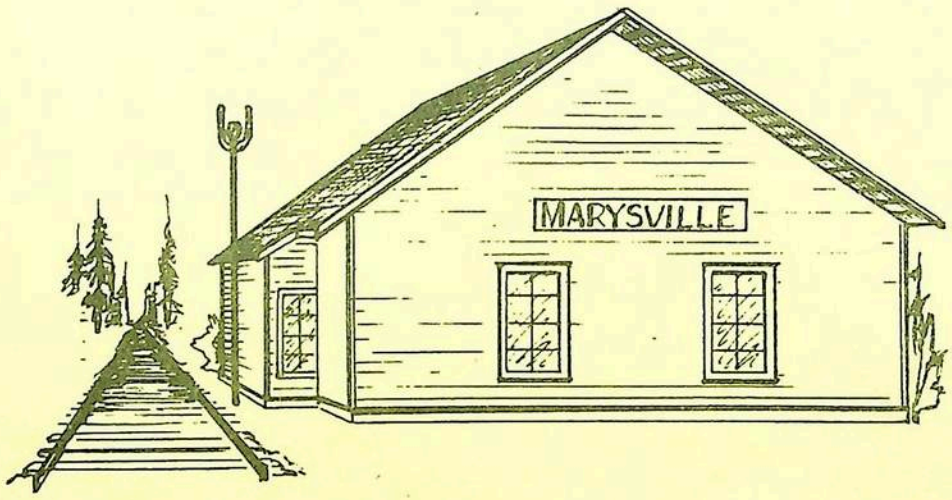



CROBBINS
1982

# Marysville: A Self-Guided Tour

Marysville Historical Society
June 1982

The Marysville Historical Society is a nonprofit corporation. This booklet is presented to the public by the Society.

Establishment of a museum in which to preserve the heritage of Marysville is the primary goal of the Society.

Sincere thanks are extended to all who shared information and photographs, and encouraged the Society members who initiated this endeavor. Research was begun with Ruth Ellen and Viola Wagner, then continued with Lee Johnson, Nerys Halvorson, Valda Bloom, Evelyn Bradford and Dolores Robbins. Completion was coordinated in 1982 by Mrs. Robbins with sketches contributed by Chris Robbins.

Revision of this book was done in 1985 by Lee Johnson, with sketches of Gehl Home done by Erling Anderson.

The public is invited to the regular meetings of the Society held the first Monday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans' Hall, 2nd and Cedar, Marysville.

For additional information call 334-4919, 659-3557, or 659-5645.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks are extended to members of the Future Business Leaders of America and Business and Office Education classes at Marysville-Pilchuck High School.

These students were responsible for the entire completion of this book. They did the word processing, copying, assembling and stapling of the book as part of a class project.

They did an outstanding job, which is very much appreciated by the Society. We are proud of our fine schools in Marysville and the young people who attend them.

Publication of this brochure was sponsored by the Marysville Historical Society, formed in 1974 for the recognition and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Marysville. Funding was provided by Marysville Historical Society aided by Soroptimists International of Marysville.

Identification and marking of historic sites in Marysville is a paricular objective of the Society, and this effort is a step in that direction. Not written as a complete narrative, the information is merely an introduction to residents and visitors to some of the sites and structures significant to the city as it grew.

Take an hour or so to drive this route, or devote some leisure time walking or biking and use this brochure as a guide through some of Marysville's past. The city, incorporated in 1891 with activity centered near the waterfront, again focuses on that area. It will be interesting to chronicle this next page in the history of Marysville.

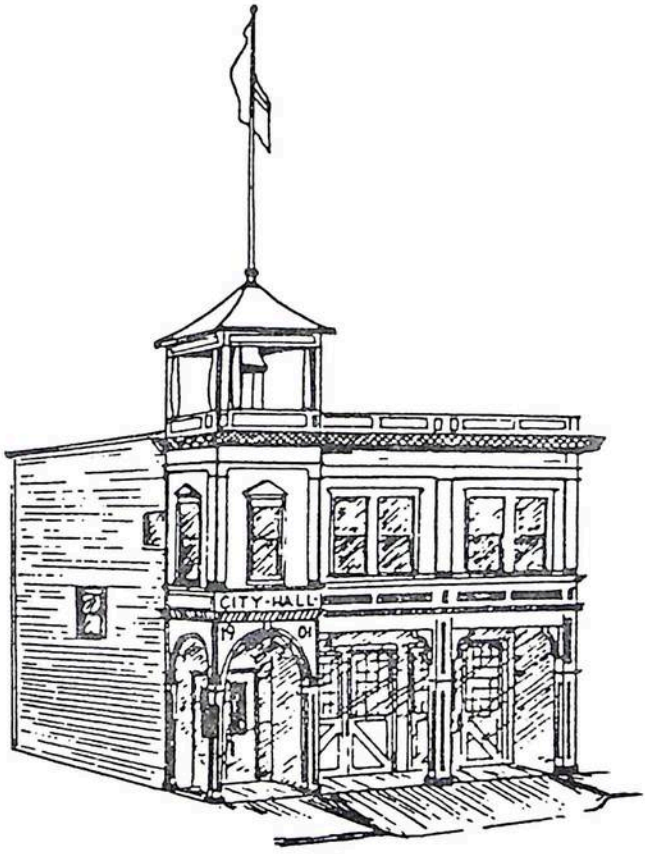
Marysville Historical Society
June 1982
Revised January, 1985

Your guide to historic sites in Marysville begins in Comeford Park, named in 1976 in honor of James P. Comeford. He obtained signatures to establish the first post office, becoming the first postmaster in 1878. He platted the town February 25, 1885, and obtained signatures for incorporation of the town, effective March 12, 1891.

The white monument in the southeast corner of the park commemorates on one side Maria Comeford (J. P.'s wife), the first schoolteacher in Marysville, conducting classes at her home. The reverse side typifies the lumber industry that was the basis for the growth of Marysville. This sculpture was sponsored by the Marysville Historical Society and donated by Larry Beck, with dedication on September 29, 1975.

The modern city hall located in this park replaces the original structure built in 1901 on the corner of 1st and Beach. The first city hall was a white clapboard two-story building with the bell on top for ringing the volunteer firemen. The first city hall was required following incorporation in 1891. The bell has survived the several changes of location of city hall and is now housed in a memorial tower at the Marysville Fire Hall, 3rd and Delta. That location was the site of the city hall from 1923 to 1949.

The water tower in the park represents the continuing concern for an adequate water supply for the city; this tower was purchased in the 1920s. The need was not only for the growing population; protection against fire for the many mills was vital and spurred action. The water fountain in the park honors Wallace Rounds, retired teacher and council member, and instrumental in the establishment of the present excellent water system.


CITY HALL
19 01
CROBBINS
1962

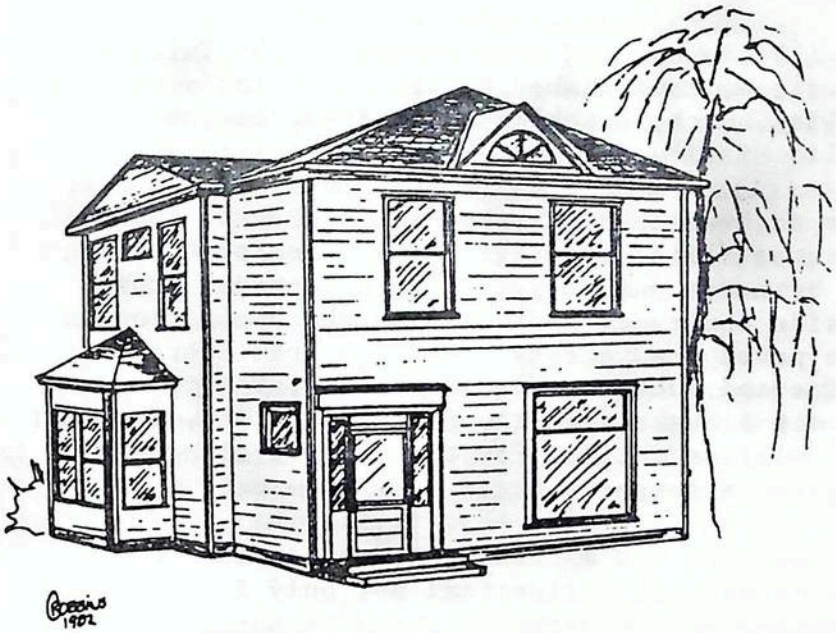
There was a bandstand in the park about 1925 to 1963, a short distance from the present bandstand. Materials and labor were supplied by public-spirited individuals led by local builder A. C. Buttke, who also coordinated formation of a town band. One highlight in the tuneful past of the bandstand was serving as the site for the marriage of a young couple on Strawberry Festival Day in the mid-thirties.

West on 4th, at Cedar, is the home of the Snohomish County Berry Growers Association, a pioneer in the development of frozen food. The present Maryfest is an outgrowth of the original Strawberry Festival sponsored in 1936 by the Commercial Club of Marysville to support the local strawberry and dairy industries.

North on Cedar, between 5th and 6th, the only remaining evidence of the railroad depot is the sign "Marysville." In the spring of 1890, Great Northern announced that a road would be built through Marysville; that immediately increased land values and would bring development and progress to the new community. In 1906 construction of the steel bridge over Ebey Slough was begun to replace the wooden structure. A spectacular crash on June 6, 1969, demolished the depot when a 35-car freight train rammed four cars.

Continuing north, on the left at 505 Cedar, is the home built in 1904 by James Francis Comeford for his parents, James and Maria Comeford. Unfortunately, the senior Comeford died before occupying the house.

The two-story house at 519 Beach was built for Clarence Emerson Munn, M.D.; it contained one of the first bathrooms in town. Munn was originally appointed special agent in the Treasury Department in Puget Sound by President Harrison. Munn returned to Marysville in 1897 and established his practice; he served as mayor, 1902-04, and health officer. He died in 1936.



Dr. Munn's house

In 1912, Marysville was described as a town of about 1,400 people with about 200 wage earners in town, with a monthly payroll averaging $15,000. The manufacture of shingles and lumber were the chief industries. Location of those mills along the waterfront is still under research, as well as those operations north and east of the town.

Marysville is bounded on the west by the Tulalip Indian Reservation, established by treaty in 1855. St. Anne's Catholic Church, established in 1849, is the oldest Catholic mission on Puget Sound.

Access to Everett and beyond was either by the railroad across the flats, walking the trestle, or the longer route by horse and buggy, or shank's mare, around Sunnyside Boulevard. Thus, with the completion in 1927 of the paved road across the flats from Everett, with concrete and metal bridges over Ebey, Union, and Steamboat Sloughs, and the Snohomish River, the cost of over a million dollars for the bridges alone was an acceptable expense.

Steve Saunders was a prominent businessman and real estate developer, influential not only in the growth and development of Marysville and Snohomish County, but also statewide. He was the eighth mayor of Marysville and a former Globe publisher. The large house at 1204 Third was built for him in 1910 by Mr. Susart at a cost of about $2,000.

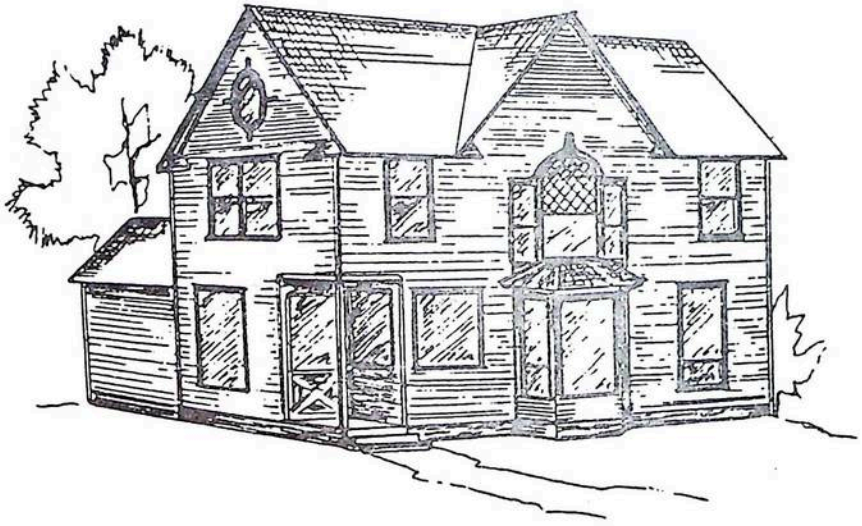
The first funeral home was established by C. H. Schaefer next to Bartlett's on First Street, prior to 1905. It later was located in the Veterans Hall after the bank vacated there. The Dick Pedersen building at 4th and Delta was built by Schaefer about 1924 as a funeral parlor. Elmer Schaefer established the new home at 8th and State in November, 1928, known today as Schaefer-Shipman Funeral Home.

On the northwest corner of 2nd and Delta is the Hugh Allan house, interesting for window detail and scrollwork. The Globe of May 18, 1906, carried news that Mr. Geddes would build the 8-room house for an estimated contract price of $1,700. Allan was a justice of the peace and also operated a livery stable.

The IOOF Hall at 1225 Third was the center of social, cultural, and fraternal activity from its construction by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1911 until mid-century. It is the first concrete-poured structure (other than industrial) in the county and is the earliest best-preserved example of reinforced concrete in this area. It has been recognized as such by its placement on the National Register for Historic Sites in 1982. Action continues for its preservation and restoration as an active community arts center.

The American Legion Veterans Hall, ~~south~~North west corner of 2nd and Cedar, was built in 1904. It was the third home of The Marysville Bank--Clark, Gould & Company, Bankers. It was also used as a funeral home in the 1920s for a period, and later became the home of the Veterans.

First Street (originally named Front) in Marysville was the cradle of Marysville, as it was here that James P. Comeford established his trading post and adjacent family residence. According to his grandson, the late Jack Healy, that was on the south side of First between Beach and Ash. Comeford had filed the first town plat in 1885; he had purchased 1,280 acres in 1878.




Hugh Allan House

On the northeast corner of 3rd and Cedar is the abandoned Crain-McCann warehouse, a pioneer mercantile firm whose business was operated from the block occupied now by Hilton Pharmacy and others.

The Olney house, ~~northwest~~ *south* corner, 217 Cedar, was built in 1905 by the banker, C. E. Olney, who was with the first bank in town. His daughter, Mae, married James Francis (Frank) Comeford.

Olney House

Donato's, at 1417 First, functions as a delicatessen and restaurant. This is the site of the original Smith and Asbery building, erected in 1891 for the pioneer merchants.

A restaurant at 202 State, occupies the brick building, which was one of the former sites of the local bank. Kuhnle's, 204 State, was established as a confectionery in 1918 by Ed and Clair Kuhnle. Their son, Kay, continues the family business, which evolved into the tavern. It is notable for its mahogany back bar which was shipped around the Horn to the Pacific Coast.

State Street, or Highway 99, is the main downtown business area now and reflects the move of commercial activity from the waterfront, which was the initial site of Marysville proper. That move was spurred in 1915 when Sunnyside became part of the Pacific Highway, and Third and State became a key intersection.

Bloom's Department Store, 3rd and State, is in its fifth location since its establishment in 1908 by O. T. Bloom. This is the oldest firm in Marysville in continuous operation by the same family.

Milford Carr, very active in community affairs from his arrival in 1910, founded Carr's Hardware in 1924, retiring in the 1960s. Family members, Bruce and Darlene Scott, still operate the business. Carlson's Bike Shop, 1417 Third, occupies the small structure that was a first home for Milford Carr and his wife, about 1912. For many years it was the office of Dr. J. W. Rose, a vital member of the community.

Carrousel Beauty Salon at 1405 Third is housed in the brick building built in 1924 by the Puget Sound Telephone Company. The Globe announced that complete new wiring was planned and the use of the hand crank was to be discarded.

Continuing north on State Street, Foxe-Myers at 4th is a firm evolved over the years from the original hardware firm of Smith and Asbery, the oldest business in Marysville to the best of our knowledge.

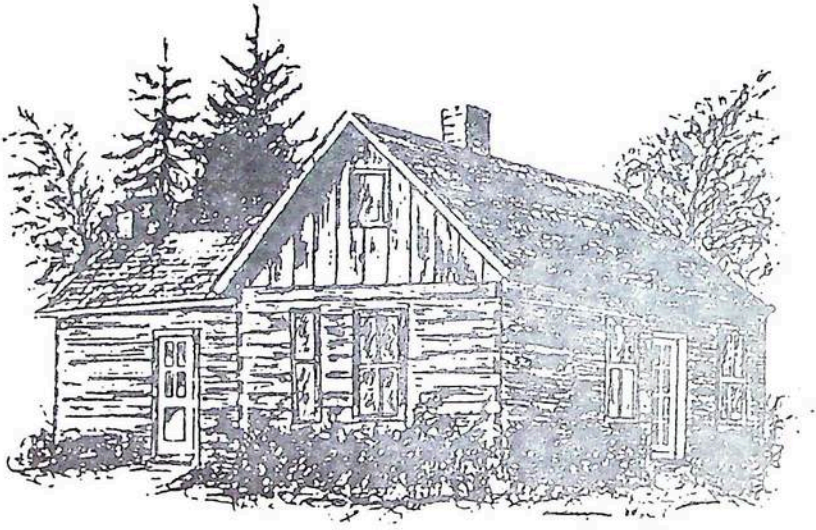
The First Baptist Church was located on the northeast corner of 5th and State; first meeting of the congregation was in 1903 and the church was erected in 1905.

The Methodist Church United, at 1607 Fourth, contains the sanctuary of the original structure which was on the northwest corner of 3rd & State until moved in 1946 to the present site. This is the oldest church in Marysville, being established in 1891.

Isaac Asbery, pioneer businessman, wished that children might have a playfield. Asbery Field, between 4th and 7th, commemorates that family. The nucleus of this large athletic field was known as Mott's Field and was used as a pig farm. Mott was a city water superintendent; his wife served as librarian and judge. The school district acquired surrounding property resulting in the present facility.

At 1636 Third Street is the restored home built in the early 1900s by Elon Colvin, pioneer banker and former mayor of Marysville. Later residents, the Peterson family, operated the stage between Marysville and Everett and housed the stage in the garage (recently dismantled)

Following 51st Avenue N.E. to Jennings Park brings you to the 13½-acre site given to the City in 1961 by the children of Wilbur and Tillie Jennings, who purchased a 40-acre tract in 1902. This was their home until 1961.



THE GEHL PIONEER HOME

1864

The barn was built by Mr. Jennings about 1920. The Marysville Garden Club has been a major supporter from 1961 to the present, providing financial aid, labor and materials.

In Jennings Park at 7027 - 51st Ave. NE, will be found the Gehl Pioneer Home. This house, built in 1884 by the Gehl family, was originally located at the top of Getchell Hill, east of Marysville.

It is of hand hewn cedar, cut from trees felled on the homestead, and caulked originally with deer moss.

It was purchased in 1982 by the Marysville Historical Society, dismantled, each board numbered, and was then re-assembled by members of the Society on ground provided by the City of Marysville.

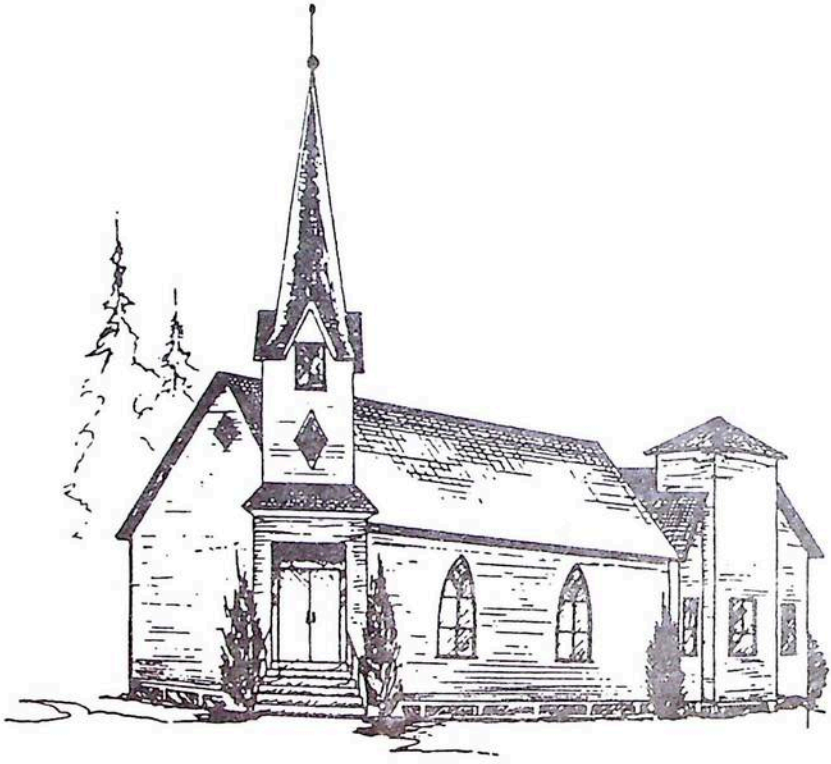
Some 300 hours of volunteer labor were spent in getting the house back to its original condition.

When it was dedicated on June 9, 1984, four generations of the Gehl family (two of whom were born in this house) were guests of honor, along with the Mayor, Maryfest Queen, and other dignitaries.

The home was furnished with pioneer articles loaned by Society members. This included a brass bed, commode, lamps, tables, a sewing machine, bedding, pictures and old-fashioned pieces of handwork featuring embroidery and handmade lace.

Some 300 visitors signed the guest book during the two-day open house. It is planned to have the home opened each year during Maryfest in June and at other times at the discretion of the Society.

Walter Taubeneck--who discovered the Gehl Home, realized its historical value, negotiated for the purchase, and led in the restoration of the house--was honored by the Snohomish County League of Historical Organizations,



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Norumtown

by receiving the first annual Helmer Malstrom Award. This award, a handsome framed plaque, which was first given in 1984, is made possible by Mrs. Clara Malstrom, widow of Helmer Malstrom.

The award is given to a person for outstanding contributions to the historical culture of Snohomish County.

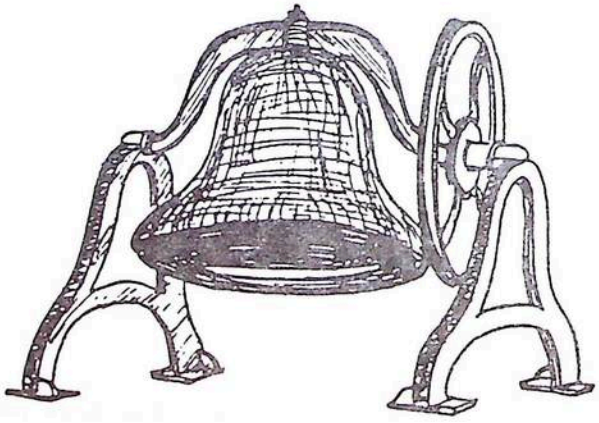
Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 72nd Street NE contains the new sanctuary and adjoining modern structures on the land first developed by Norwegian settlers in 1899 for the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Ed Norum, one of those settlers, had pledged part of his land as a bonus to the railroad if it would build through Marysville. The bonus was paid and the Great Northern used the land for trading for town lots along its right of way. The area surrounding the church is known as Norumtown.

Marysville Library at 4822 - 72nd Street NE is a far cry from the small collection of books housed in a drugstore that served as the first library. This handsome facility is a fitting tribute to the ladies of the Log Cabin Club who, assisted by the community, achieved their goal of civic and social betterment of Marysville. Their untiring efforts are recognized today in the public meeting place, the Log Cabin Room.

During your visit to the Marysville Library, be sure to stop at the Log Cabin Room where you will see on display a beautiful bunka embroidery picture of the Gehl Home, made by Mrs. Kenneth Cage and presented to the Society by the Cage family.

Perhaps you will also want to review the Book of Oral Histories, recorded by members of the Society. The book contains memoirs of several Marysville pioneers.

Kellogg Marsh School



Kellogg Marsh School Bell

Following 72nd Street NE out to Cedarcrest Golf Course brings you to the original homestead built in the early 1890s by Cordt H. Quast. Known in the beginning as Hillcrest, a Mr. Sergeant had the golf course built in the 1920s. The City of Marysville acquired ownership in 1971 from Tom and Florence Quast, son and daughter of C. H. Quast.

North on 67th NE out to 100th NE, the Kellogg Marsh School building still stands, although used commercially now. This area was known as the Pleasant Hill School until 1896. The original school was in a structure north of this building on Ole Moskeland's land; that building was used until 1902. The present structure was built in 1902 and used as a school until 1956.

The school bell from Kellogg Marsh is housed now at Cascade Elementary School, 5200 - 100th Street NE; continue west on 100th to view that.

Leaving Cascade, turn north on 51st Avenue NE until you reach the Marysville-Pilchuck High School intersection. Stay on 51st and continue north to 136th Place NE; the present Shoultes school is on the location of the original. Land for the original school was donated by the early settler, Seymour Shoultes.

Follow Old Highway 99 to return to Marysville. The cemeteries at 88th were established in 1892. This was significant, as prior to that it was necessary to go to Snohomish for burial. On the north of 88th is the general cemetery; to the south, is the Catholic.

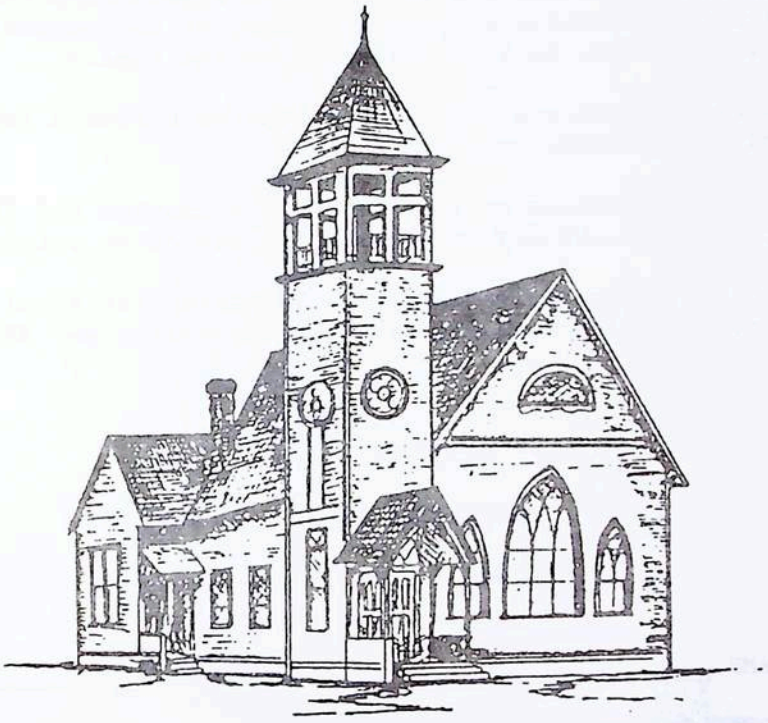
Entering the north cemetery from Highway 99, the first road to your right faces the final resting places of early Marysville citizens; e.g., the Shoultes plot, the Mark Swinnerton (first mayor) monument, etc. Family plots of others are nearby.

St Mary's Catholic Church, 4100 - 88th, holds in this new sanctuary the bell from the original site of the church at 4th and Delta. That former site is now occupied by the drive-in banking booths of Seattle-First National Bank. In the Catholic cemetery, a commemorative plaque marks the grave site of J. P. Comeford, placed by Marysville Historical Society on May 29, 1978.

Continuing into Marysville, the First Baptist Church is home to the congregation that established its first church in 1905 at 5th and State. This new structure was dedicated in 1961.

The Marysville Globe at 8213 State (Old 99) took its name in its first edition, February 4, 1892. It began as the Leader in 1891. The Globe has had several homes, each indicative of the growth and movement of the town from the waterfront and relevant to one of its early slogans, "We Intend To Keep Up With The Times And Don't You Forget It!"

The United States Post Office, at 1010 State, was established in April 1879 by James Comeford. Mail had to be picked up from a boat that made its way through Steamboat Slough twice a week. The first "Post Office" was the dining table of the Comeford family. The first "uniformed" mail carrier wore a cap to denote his status. The present location of the post office is its fifth in Marysville.




First Baptist Church

## SUPPORT OUR MUSEUM FUND

Several years ago a Museum Fund was establisned by the Marysville Historical Society. Contributions, which are tax deductible, are given in memory of a beloved relative or friend who has died, to commemorate the birthday or anniversary of a friend, or to announce the joyous arrival of a new addition to the family.

Suitable cards are sent to the honored person's family and to the donor as well.

The contributions to this fund are earmarked for the Museum only and cannot be used for any other purpose.

Contributions may be sent to Marysville Historical Society Museum Fund, PO Box 41, Marysville, WA 98270.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MARYSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 41 MARYSVILLE WA 98270

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

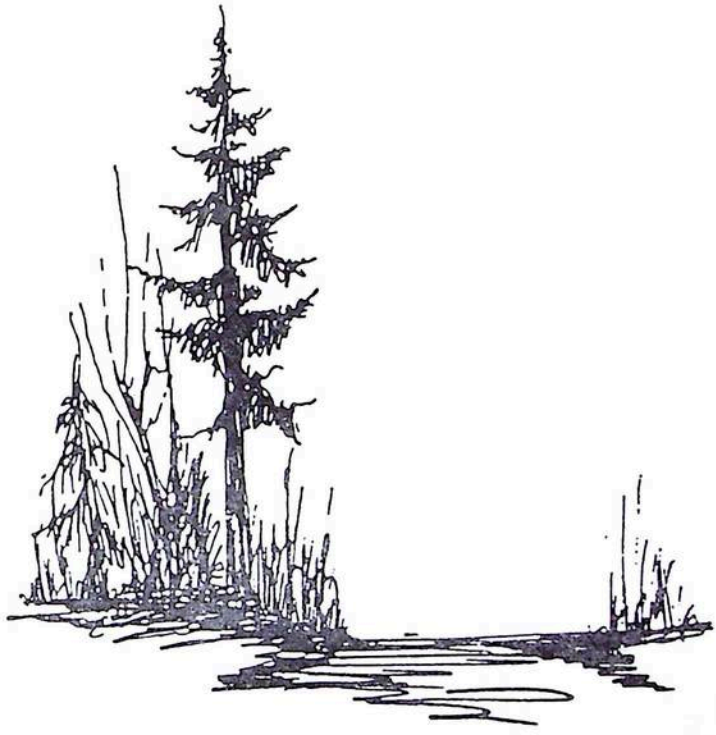
ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

**Individual $3.00 per year __**

**Sustaining $10.00 per year __**

**Life Membership $100.00 one time payment __**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