

Out of the Archives

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Property of the Month

by Midori Okazaki, Puget Sound Regional Branch



On November 21, 1899, the Florence Crittenton Home for unwed mothers opened in Dunlap (now South Seattle). It was one of 50 homes opened by a rescue mission founded by a wealthy New York druggist to provide shelter for destitute women and was the only secular facility of its kind in Seattle.

A new three-story building with room for 150 women opened in 1926. Further expansion raised the capacity to 200. In 1965, with more women from outside King County seeking a space in the house, there was a waiting list for beds.

But, social norms were quickly changing, and by June of 1971, the number of residents dropped to 23. The foundation operating the home – in debt and lacking funding – shuttered the home in 1973.