

SWAN LAKE

Bounded by East 15th Street, South Utica Avenue, East 21st Street,  
and South Peoria Avenue

Tulsa

Tulsa

Oklahoma

HALS OK-12

OK-12

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### SWAN LAKE

HALS NO. OK-12

- Location:** Bounded by 15th Street on the north, Utica Avenue on the east, 21st Street on the south, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma  
Lat: 36.13594 Long: -95.96920
- Significance:** Swan Lake Park, designated as an Oklahoma Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is thought to be one of the first residential developments in Oklahoma to use a pond as the main element of its landscape design.
- History:** Swan Lake Park originated as a spring-fed watering hole for A.D. Orcutt's cattle around 1880 and was originally called Orcutt Lake. Eventually, the Orcutts opened the watering hole for recreational activities, and it soon became a popular destination for Tulsa citizens. In 1908, an amusement park was built on the north shore and a residential development began soon after in the same area. Following the guidelines of the State of Oklahoma's first subdivision regulations, the style of homes built in the development included Spanish Mission, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival, National Folk, and Eclectic.
- In 1917, Orcutt sold the land around the lake to E.J. Brennan, who used the lake as a centerpiece of his landscape design and residential development plans. Located in the middle of the lake is a fountain originally built in 1920 and rebuilt in 1938 by the WPA.
- Sources:** "Swan Lake Park." Historic American Buildings Survey. Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division,, Washington, D.C. 20540, Washington, D.C. 20540, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.ok0072> (accessed on 2.27.2009).
- "Swan Lake Historic District." Tulsa Preservation Commission.  
<http://www.tulsapreservationcommission.org/nationalregister/districts/swanlake/> (accessed March 12, 2009).
- Duncan, Kelly C. Cultural Resources in the Tulsa Urban Study Area (Tulsa, OK: Archeological Research Associates, 1977).
- "National Register Properties in Oklahoma: Swan Lake Historic District"  
<http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/shpopic.asp?id=98000140> (accessed March 12, 2009).

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View of fountain in Swan Lake and surrounding residential area ( National Register Properties in Oklahoma: <http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/shpopic.asp?id=98000140#ship>, accessed March 18, 2009).



View looking west from South Utica Avenue (Steve Eilers, 2009).