

MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY  
51st Street and South Memorial Drive  
Tulsa  
Tulsa County  
Oklahoma

HALS OK-50  
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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

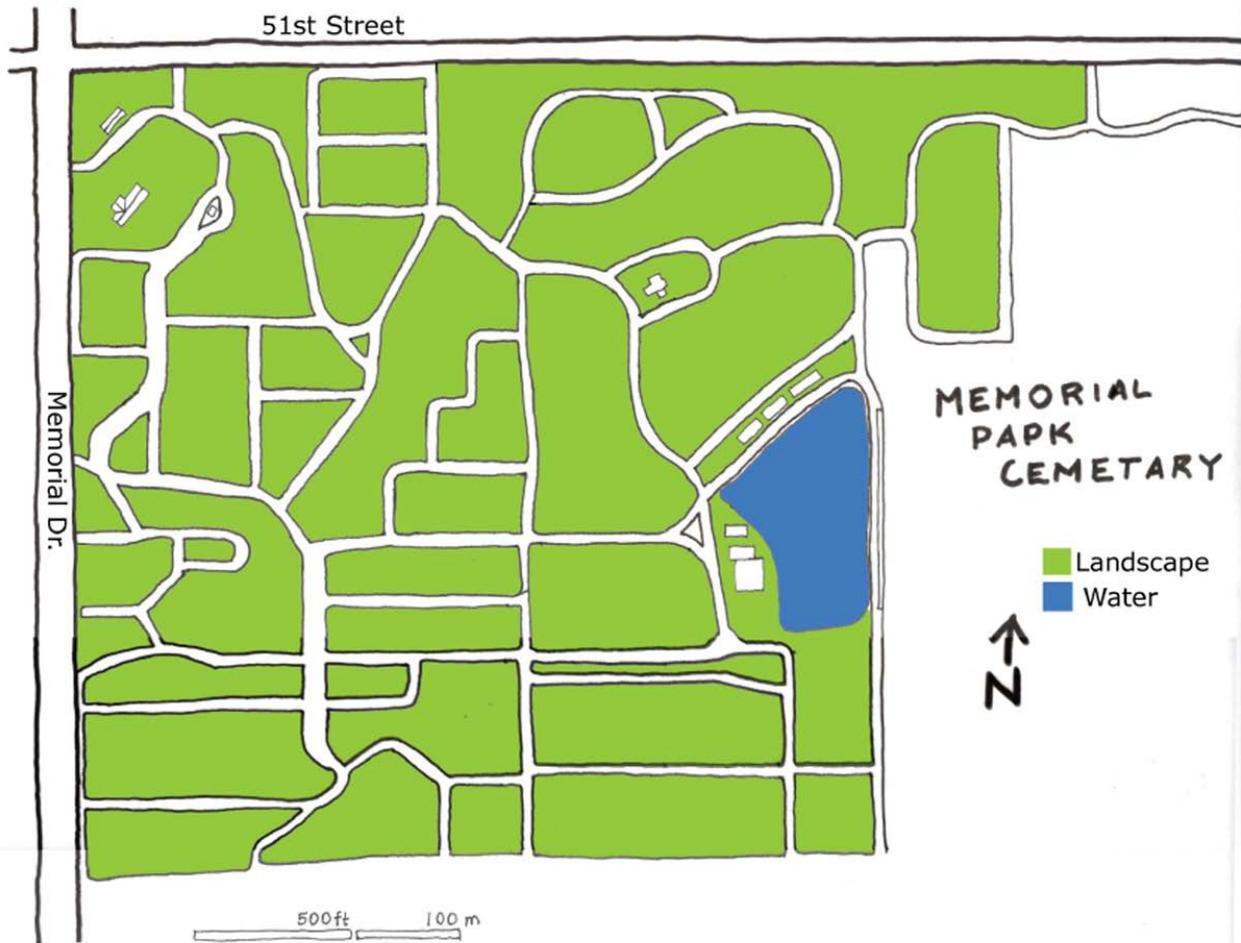
## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY

HALS NO. OK-50

- Location:** 51st Street and South Memorial Drive, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma  
Lat: 36.087856 Long: -95.880067 (Center of Chapel of Saints Valley building, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)
- Significance:** Memorial Park Cemetery holds historical significance as one of the largest locally designed cemeteries in the Midwest with a combination of curvilinear and rectilinear design styles.
- Description:** The 240-acre cemetery is located in the south part of Tulsa east of South Memorial Drive and south of 51st Street. Roads meander throughout the cemetery with the major roads winding around the outer edges and the smaller roads serving as connectors to the major roads. In the southern portion of the cemetery the roads were laid out in a rectilinear pattern but as they approach the slope they become more curvilinear winding around the family mausoleums near the entrance. Most of the markers in the cemetery are upright, while some are flat providing a more open view through the cemetery. Around the pond on the eastern side of the cemetery are three large mausoleums. The most visible structure in the cemetery is the bell tower near the Memorial Drive entrance. The cemetery is designed in a naturalistic style with trees planted randomly throughout with the exception of two roads on the west side of the cemetery that have trees planted along them. The scenic feel of the landscape is further emphasized during spring when the many bulbs planted by relatives of those buried here bloom randomly all over the cemetery.
- History:** The cemetery was established in the 1920s. The Chapel of the Saints and the first Oklahoma crematory were added in 1950. During the early 1950s, Earle Davenport was the cemetery's manager. He donated the plaque for Tulsa's time capsule in 1957. Tulsa's local Easter pageant was moved to the cemetery in the mid 1940s, where it was attended by 50,000-80,000 people annually until it was discontinued in 1957. The cemetery holds the remains of locally significant people including Billie Joe Daugherty, Rev. Oral Roberts, Sam Kinison, and Bob Willis. The families of Helmerich, Hardesty, and Mayo are also among those buried at Memorial Park Cemetery.
- Sources:** Memorial Park Cemetery. Website accessed April 16, 2011.  
<http://www.memorialparktulsa.com/directions.html>.
- Historian:** Christina Biven, April 16, 2011
- Dr. Charles L. Leider, Professor and Faculty Sponsor

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Memorial Park Cemetery Plan (Christina Biven, April 2011).



View of Memorial Park Cemetery entrance at northwest corner of the site (Christina Biven, April 2011).