

History

OAKWOOD CEMETERY

Established in 1849 at
400 North Palace Avenue;
West Oakwood at North Palace

Oakwood Cemetery is listed No. 15 with
The Tyler Historic Landmark Commission.

It is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

Oakwood Cemetery was designated a
Historic Texas Cemetery in 1999.

Isaac Lollar sold to John Lollar of Smith County, Texas, 640 acres of land on October 2, 1846. The public square for the City of Tyler was later laid out on part of this land. On September 22, 1849, John Lollar conveyed to John Madison Patterson in the Isaac Lollar Survey 345 acres. The deed stipulated that five acres of land in the southwest corner be deeded to the City for a cemetery.

It was known as "Lollar's Cemetery" for a number of years, then "City Cemetery," and finally in 1904, it became "Oakwood Cemetery."

Over the years, additional land was donated (or purchased) and added to the cemetery. Oakwood Cemetery proper is 8.58 acres and has more than 2000 inscribed tombstones.



Oakwood Cemetery is a City Cemetery and is maintained by the Tyler Parks Department.

In 1997, members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and other interested citizens formed the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee and have worked with the Tyler Parks Department since that time to make Oakwood a beautiful historical cemetery.



Historic City of Tyler OAKWOOD CEMETERY

Located at the corner of
Palace and
Oakwood Streets
Tyler, Texas



Spirits of Oakwood CEMETERY TOUR

A guided walking tour of historic Oakwood Cemetery. Historical figures share the history of Tyler.



The tour is held annually in conjunction with Tyler's Spring Azalea Trail.

*Saturday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Final Tour starts at 4:30 p.m.
(Check website for actual date)*

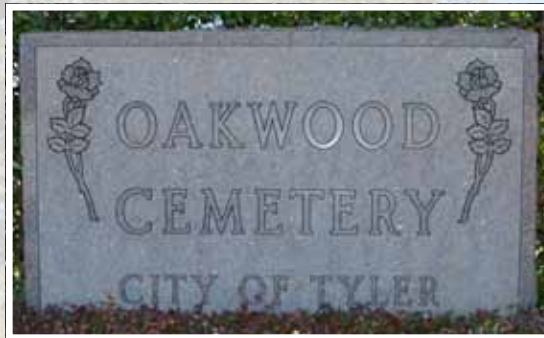
Spirits of Oakwood is a fundraising event sponsored by the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Proceeds are used to repair broken markers in the cemetery.

Donations are welcome and may be sent to the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee:

*City Cemeterian
City of Tyler Parks Department
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710
(903) 531-1207*

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:

*City Cemeterian
City of Tyler Parks Department
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710
(903) 531-1207
cemetery@tylertexas.com*



Coming Soon!

OAKWOOD CEMETERY WEBSITE

- ◀ *View a burial registry.*
- ◀ *Learn more about historic and interesting figures buried in Oakwood Cemetery.*
- ◀ *Download self-guided tour maps and information.*
- ◀ *See selected "Spirits" of Oakwood.*

www.OakwoodCemeteryTyler.com

Coming Soon!

SELF-GUIDED CEMETERY TOURS

In addition to roaming Historic Oakwood Cemetery using our general brochure, take one of several new self-guided tours by utilizing tour brochures and strategically placed ground markers to navigate the cemetery.

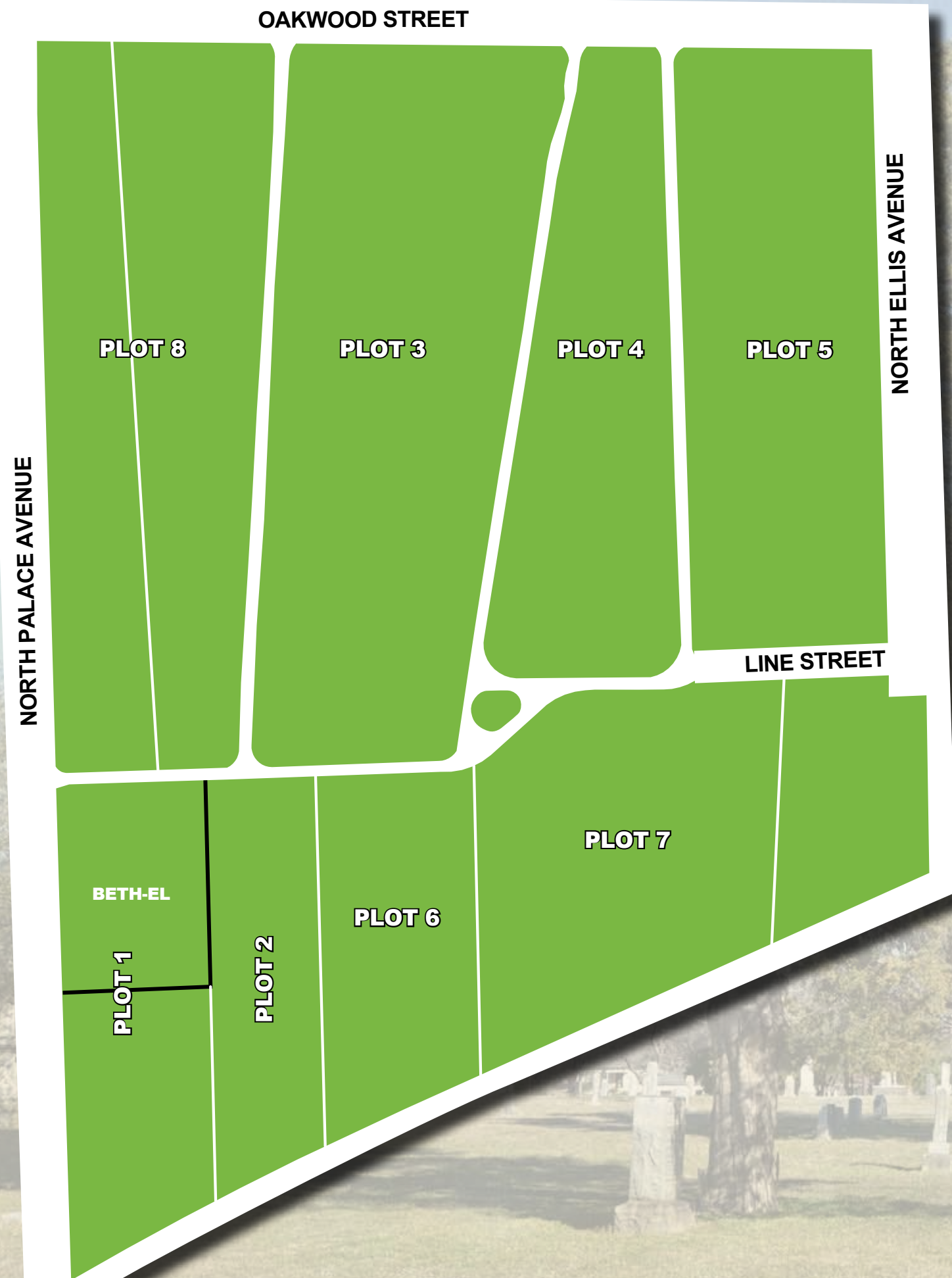
Learn about many of the Civil War Veterans buried in Oakwood, both Confederate and Union.

Visit the gravesites of State and Local leaders from Tyler's early years.

Learn the interesting stories of selected individuals buried in Oakwood Cemetery.



OAKWOOD CEMETERY



HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY
The Texas Historical Commission recognized Oakwood Cemetery in November 1999. A plaque was placed at each of the five entrances in June 2001. The designation is reserved for cemeteries at least 50 years old and deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for their historic associations.



THE BLACK SECTION
This monument was dedicated in 1997 and is located in the center of the section adjacent to Palace Avenue in Plot 8. Placed by Sterling Funeral Home of Tyler, it is dedicated to the unnamed black Americans buried in this plot.



JEWISH CEMETERY
Named for the Beth-El congregation, this cemetery's entrance is on Palace Avenue. A low retaining wall and iron fence separate it from Oakwood as Jewish custom requires separation of Jewish and non-Jewish graves. The oldest grave in Beth-El is that of a 19 year old young lady who died in 1884.



CONFEDERATE SOLDIER MONUMENT

This monument was purchased in 1907 by the Mollie Moore Davis Chapter 217 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor the Confederate Soldiers of Smith County. It was a ten-year process to raise the funds for the statue (\$2,500). The marble base that supports the statue was made by Tyler's own Morris Brothers Marble works. The statue of the soldier was constructed by craftsmen in Italy.



MAUSOLEUM
The only mausoleum in Oakwood is the final resting place of Nancy Orthaious "Ortha" Reynolds Parish and her husband, Daniel Webster Parish. Visitors should note the beautiful ironwork on the door and the stained glass in the west window. Mr. Parish died in 1902 and his wife lived another 54 years. No children were born to this union. Mrs. Parish, who came to Tyler in 1897, left a large bequest to the West Erwin Christian Church. These funds were used to build three other Christian churches. This structure is located in Plot 7.



GOVERNOR HUBBARD
Richard Bennett Hubbard came to Texas in 1853. His life was spent in the practice of law and political service. He was instrumental in bringing rail lines to the area. He became the Governor of Texas in 1863 and in later years became the Ambassador to Japan. Tyler was his home and Oakwood is the final resting place for him and his immediate family in Plot 3.



ZINC MARKERS

At least three markers in Plot 3 are made of zinc. Only one company made this durable type marker in various cities. The name "Monumental Bronze Co." and the city of origin can be seen at the base of the markers. Zinc markers were only made for 40 years between 1874-1914. Production stopped at the start of WWI as zinc was needed for the war effort. Look for the bluish grey color and a gentle tap on the marker will give you a metallic, hollow sound.



SOLDIER'S PLOT

The remains of 231 unknown Confederate soldiers are buried in unmarked graves near the center of the cemetery. The Confederate Soldier Monument and the First National Flag is a fitting memorial to the soldiers who died in or near Tyler during the War Between the States.



OLDEST MARKER
The oldest marker in Oakwood is that of P.M. Scott, a little four year old boy, born in 1848 and died in 1852. This marker is located in Plot 3.



SUNDIAL

In 1922, this sundial was placed in Plot 4 by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Its regent in 1922 was Jennie Mae Perry, a longtime teacher in Tyler. She is buried in Plot 1 with her family.



DOGWOOD TREE
Located in Plot 6, this dogwood, estimated to be more than 100 years old, is a spectacular sight in the springtime when it is in full bloom. Don't miss its display of white blooms come spring. (Late March-Early April).



SEXTON HOUSE

All that remains of the former Sexton House is the concrete slab in the south east corner of the cemetery. A Sexton was the caretaker of the cemetery. The small building was destroyed by a fire years ago, along with records and documentations. There are future plans to develop a welcome center kiosk at this location to aid guests when they visit Oakwood.



UNKNOWN SOLDIER

This distinct, above the ground burial is easy to spot with its brick exterior. There is no marker, name or date with this grave, only a CSA foot marker. It is located in Plot 3.



THE GOODMAN ANGEL

Located in Plot 4, this is one of the largest markers in Oakwood. The large Italian sculptured marble angel is the centerpiece of the Goodman family plot. It was erected by Dr. William J. Goodman after the death of his wife Pricilla in 1915. The cost was \$2,000 and workmen used 300 pound cakes of ice to ensure that it would be placed exactly right.