

30. ACACIA MEMORIAL PARK

801 Scenic Drive (1872)



Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution: October 21, 1996

Designated by City Council: December 3, 1996

Historic Significance: This cemetery was originally laid out by the Masonic Lodge in 1872 as a Masonic cemetery. The oldest graves in the cemetery were moved there from the early Westport area. Moved in were: Isaiah Laird, died 1849, age 2, Wallace Laird, died 1852, age 6 months; Thomas Laird, died 1868, age 12; and Elvira Porter, died 1867, age 24. These were the children of John and Martha Laird. They are all buried in the Jesse Spalding plot, the first bought when the Lodge began to sell lots. Other old graves moved in include: George W. Lawrence, born and died June 1, 1869, son of W. and M.A. Lawrence; and, J.L Cross, husband of Jennie, who died October 19, 1874. The first original burials in the cemetery were: Diantha Sanders, died May 22, 1873; Andrew Yokum, died May 23, 1873; and, Dr. J.E. Howard, died October 14, 1874.

Acacia is one of four adjoining cemeteries on Scenic Drive which locals called "The Silent City." This is the first city cemetery to have a set-apart veterans section. In 1917, the cemetery was incorporated and in 1960, more land was purchased and an addition called the Pine Tree Area was developed. In 1964, the name was changed from Masonic Cemetery to Acacia Memorial Park.