Searching For Graves From the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre: Geophysical Survey of Oaklawn Cemetery, The Canes, and Newblock Park

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Technologies Used

- **Gradiometer**
  - Detects subtle magnetic variation in soils
  - Graves often are more magnetic than surrounding soil

- **Electrical Resistance Meter**
  - Measures moisture content and resistance to electrical current

- **Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)**
  - Sends radar pulse into ground, which reflects back to tell us size and depth of underground objects
Newblock Park
Newblock Park

Gradiometer

Electrical Resistance
The Canes

Area 1, facing roughly east
The Canes
Oaklawn Cemetery

1. Clyde Eddy area with extensions
2. Original 18
3. Southwest corner
4. Sexton
5. Bike path
6. Paved road
Oaklawn Cemetery-Bike Path

Oaklawn Cemetery, Bike Path Grid 2

Time Slice, 12 cm below surface

GPR
Oaklawn Cemetery-Paved Road

Typical GPR profile from road

Crack in asphalt

Base of asphalt
Oaklawn Cemetery-Clyde Eddy+
Oaklawn Cemetery-Clyde Eddy+

Possible unmarked grave

Flat metal headstone
Oaklawn Cemetery-Southwest Corner

- Gradiometer
- Electrical Resistance

Not Surveyed

Oaklawn Cemetery Southwest Corner
N964E1001

nT

ohm

-26.43

29.21

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 m
Oaklawn Cemetery-Original 18

Electrical Resistance

Gradiometer
Oaklawn Cemetery-Original 18

Original 18 Possible Unmarked Grave

Original 18 Tree Root Disturbance
Oaklawn Cemetery-Sexton Area

GPR profile (left)
Horizontal slice @26 cm (0.85 ft) (right)
Oaklawn Cemetery-Sexton Area

Gradiometer
Oaklawn Cemetery-Sexton Area

GPR

Gradiometer
Summary

- Newblock: No burials, lots of ground disturbance since 1921
- The Canes: Two possible common burials
- Oaklawn:
  - Some unmarked graves along southern boundary
  - Large anomaly from the 1998 survey not rediscovered
  - Likely unmarked graves in the Original 18 area
  - Large possible common burial in the Sexton area