



THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST FOUNDATION HONORS

Daniel Webster Alumni



The Daniel Webster Alumni Scholarship was established to honor all of the students who graduated from the high school.

The Daniel Webster High School Historic District sits on twenty-four acres of landscaped rolling hills west of Highway 75 in west Tulsa. The school sits at the corner of West 40th Street and South Yukon Avenue.

South Yukon Avenue borders the school on the west side running north to south. West 40th street borders the property on the south side running east to west. On the north the campus is bordered by West 37th Place and the east South Union Avenue runs north to south along the border. The original Route 66 borders the northeast corner of the campus. Most of the neighborhoods surrounding the school are working class, featuring smaller homes. On all four sides of the school sit small older homes. The campus includes many original large trees and a dry creek bed running through the center.

The main building is on a hill overlooking the campus square which features several matching original brick bridges crossing the dry creek. The back of the buildings face the streets. Across the creek from the main building sits the school's stadium, which was built by the (Works Progress Administration) WPA in 1941 and is a contributing structure, and the athletics building, a non-contributing building. The main building, constructed by the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1938, has a center structure with wings angled off to the north and south. The south wing becomes the school's auditorium with the entrance on the south end. Connecting to the south wing to the east is a United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National

Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018
Daniel Webster High School Historic District Tulsa, Oklahoma Name of Property
County and State Section 7 page 5 smaller two-story gym on the east end.

Off of the south wing to the west is Daniel Webster Middle School. Both buildings are attached by metal covered walkways. The school district built the middle school building as an annex to the high school in 1961 and is a contributing building. Northeast of the original gymnasium and cafeteria is a small brick building with three doors and an overhead door. This structure, built in the late 1960s, served as the mechanic shop originally and now is used by the Future Farmers of America program. It is a contributing building. The campus center features a "campus square" feel as the buildings center around the creek bed and wooded area. The landscape architecture for the campus planned the site to focus on the wooded campus center. Three brick bridges cross the creek bed on the campus square. These are original to the campus and constructed in 1938. The two original buildings (main building and gymnasium), the stadium, the annex and the mechanic building are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The historical integrity of the building's architectural design remains. The school is historically important at the local level as it was the first high school in the Tulsa area to integrate in 1955 and one of thirty high schools nationwide to experiment with the progressive education reform movement ideas.

The Dale Edwards Building was added to the campus in 1961 for additional classroom space. Originally the school referred to it as the annex. In 2017, the district consolidated and made this building the Daniel Webster Middle School. The building sits at the corner of West 40th street and South Yukon Avenue at an angle with an entrance facing South Yukon Avenue.

Despite its violent racial past, Tulsa integrated its public school system quietly and uneventfully. In May 1954, Tulsa began exploring how to integrate its schools after the Brown v Board ruling. Money was the focus. The district explored how it would absorb the \$1 million funding for black schools into its white schools. White schools were funded on a district basis. Segregated schools were funded on a county wide basis. The district also noted and reassured citizens that because of its district school rules, students were distributed to schools based on neighborhoods, there would be no influx of black students into white schools because most of the black population lived

in North Tulsa. Students in the segregated South Haven School would find it more convenient to attend Daniel Webster High School rather than travel to the all-black Booker T. Washington High School.

The South Haven community, created after the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, existed between 33rd Street and end of the turnpike in West Tulsa. The area had its own elementary school that educated children grades first through sixth. The school's eighth grade school had come to be considered as part of Tulsa's Independent School District Number 1 prior to the city annexing South Haven. After sixth grade the students were transported to Carver Junior High School and Booker T. Washington High School. With the Oklahoma State Legislature fully behind integration of public schools, the principals of Daniel Webster High School and Booker T. Washington High School agreed to integrate Daniel Webster High School in the fall of 1955. For students at New Haven, the distance to Webster High School was shorter and more convenient. Twenty-seven black high school students volunteered to enter Daniel Webster High School that fall. It was a peaceful event with no protesting. Webster integrated black students into its student body a full year before other schools in the district and possibly throughout Northeastern Oklahoma.

The building was named after Daniel Webster. Webster is widely regarded as an important and talented attorney, orator, and politician, but historians and observers have offered mixed opinions on his moral qualities and ability as a national leader.

Daniel Webster (January 18, 1782 – October 24, 1852) was an American lawyer and statesman who represented [New Hampshire](#) and [Massachusetts](#) in the [U.S. Congress](#) and served as the 14th and 19th [U.S. Secretary of State](#) under Presidents [William Henry Harrison](#), [John Tyler](#), and [Millard Fillmore](#). Webster was one of the most prominent American lawyers of the 19th century, arguing over 200 cases before the [United States Supreme Court](#) in his career. During his life, Webster had been a member of the [Federalist Party](#), the [National Republican Party](#), and the [Whig Party](#). He was among the three members of the [Great Triumvirate](#) along with [Henry Clay](#) and [John C. Calhoun](#).

- Adapted from the National Register of Historic Places