The Buildings of Dalhousie University

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University Children's Centre & Residence

Address: 6101-6111 South St. Start Date: 2000

Architect: Ron Smith Contractor: Whitehall Investments Limited Completion Date: Summer 2001 Renovation Date(s):

Building History

The large building at 6101 and 6111 South Street is an independentlyoperated student apartment building, with the University Children's Centre on the ground floor. The land is leased by the University to Whitehall Investments Limited, and the daycare operates independently, with the support of Dalhousie.

The building was financed and constructed by Whitehall Investments Limited in a unique partnership with Dalhousie University. The architect was Ron Smith of Studioworks Inc. and the Project Manager was Austin Park of Boss Project Management. The project had its share of public criticism since the building was being erected in a residential area. The building has 30 high-quality student apartments and the daycare centre below. The building opened in the Fall of 2001.

The University Children's Centre has been in operation since 1967. Its mission has always been to offer high-quality and affordable child care to the Dalhousie community and other residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Centre had three previous locations, in Peter Green Hall, at Coburg Road and in the Life Sciences Centre; the latter centre still exists. In 1990 the Coburg and Life Sciences Centre locations were incorporated and have since been managed as one unit. The Centre is independent and legally separate from Dalhousie.

The new Whitehall building won the Nova Scotia Home Awards competition in 2002 in the home unit design division. It was praised as a "model for development through partnering."

The student apartments (located on floors two through five) consist of 26 two-bedroom units and 4 three-bedroom units, for a total of 30 apartments. Some of the two-bedroom units have two levels with the bedrooms upstairs. The building itself is designed so that neither the daycare centre nor the children's playground is accessible from the student apartments.

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