

The Buildings of Dalhousie University

B Building & Addition

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Address: 1360 Barrington St.

Start Date: November 20, 1959 Completion Date: 1961

Architect: C. A. Fowler and Company (architectural firm) Renovation Date(s): 1975; Fall 1977; 1978/79; 1982/83; 1987/88; 1989; 1992

Contractor: Foundation Maritime Limited



A & B Buildings - Exterior - Rear, n.d.

Building History

Work began on the Nova Scotia Technical College's A, B and C Buildings on November 20, 1959; provincial Minister of Public Works Stephen T. Pyke had announced the awarding of the contract earlier in the week. This 58,000 square-foot, three-wing addition to the Macdonald (D) Building was designed by the Halifax architectural firm C.A. Fowler and Company - which was formed by an alumnus of the College - constructed by Foundation Maritime Limited and budgeted at \$830,000.



CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing) Centre Opening, April 29, 1983

Completed in 1961, the two-story B Building is of a curtain wall concrete frame waffle slab construction. It is the middle portion of the A-B-C Building complex, extending from where the H.R. Theakston (C1) Building joins with the Macdonald (D) Building eastward, to link up with the MacNab (A) Building. Originally, the B Building had three drafting rooms and a lecture room on both its second and third floors. Two of the drafting rooms on the second floor had a folding partition separating them, allowing the space to be used as one large room when needed. The first floor had no enclosures and acted as a breezeway between the MacNab (A), Macdonald (D) and engineering laboratory (F) buildings.

In 1961, all of the Mechanical Engineering Department's facilities (except its heat-engine lab) were moved to the appropriate spaces in the newly-constructed A and B Buildings. A new wind tunnel was also constructed and became well-used in an honours-level course in aerodynamics.

In 1975, upgrades and renovations to the B Building's second-floor classroom space were completed and offices for the Faculty of Engineering were provided. In the fall of 1977, the library's Reading Room was moved from the MacNab (A) Building to the B Building; the Placement Office was moved to room B-233 in the B Building as well.

In September 1978, the College established the Campus Design Centre (originally called the 'Campus Design Studio'), headed by



CAD/CAM (Computer Aided
Design/Computer Aided
Manufacturing) Centre Opening - VIPs
inspect new terminals, April 29, 1983

Campus Design Coordinator Prof. Larry Richards (of the School of Architecture) and official Assistant Mr. Eric Fiss, aided by architecture students in the School's co-operative program. This new department was mandated to design the College's new physical and aesthetic developments (i.e. buildings, renovations, outdoor space, interior design) in a manner consistent with a Comprehensive Campus Plan developed by the Centre's staff.

One of the renovation projects based on the Centre's designs which proceeded during the 1978/79 academic year was the creation of office and studio space combining the Physical Plant and Campus Design Centre departments in the B Building.

During the 1982/83 academic year, the B Building had its breezeway filled in, in order to house the new Nova Scotia CAD/CAM [Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing] Centre. Funded by the provincial Department of Development, the Centre was officially opened on April 29, 1983 by the Hon. Roland Thornhill, Nova Scotia's Minister of Development, who was presented with the ceremonial ribbon-cutting scissors by a robot. Also in attendance were Mr. T.S. (Dudley) Allan, President of Control Data Canada Ltd., and Mr. Jack Fawcett, President of Computing Services of Canada, a division of Control Data Canada.

During the 1987/88 academic year, some classroom space in the B Building plus some existing library space in the McNab (A) Building was modified to create an extension for the library with 40 additional study spaces and enough extra stack space to hold 8,800 volumes. The extension project was designed by the Campus Design Centre, built by the TUNS Physical Plant staff and was officially opened on February 29, 1988 by TUNS Board Chairman W. H. Gates and TUNS Student Union President Colin Dickson. The extension's second phase quickly followed and provided 26 more study spaces and stack space for another 10,000 volumes.

Also around this time, funds were secured to extend the B Building's breezeway in order to house the computer-aided-manufacturing facility of the Nova Scotia CAD/CAM Centre, which is also in the building. The manufacturing facility was a joint effort undertaken by the CAD/CAM Centre, the Advanced Materials Engineering Centre (AMEC), and the TUNS Department of Mechanical Engineering. The facility's machining centre and lathe were funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Nova Scotia Department of Industry, Trade & Technology through the Technology Transfer Industry Innovations Agreement. The facility's official opening was held on April 28, 1989, attended by the Hon. Donald Cameron, provincial Minister of Industry, Trade & Technology, the Hon. Joel Matheson, provincial Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training, and Mr. Wynne Potter, Vice President for Nova Scotia, ACOA. Dignitaries and guests were welcomed by Dr. Peter Adams, President of TUNS.

In July 1992, as part of a \$3 million campus construction project built by J.W. Lindsay Enterprises Ltd., the B Building received an expansion to the south, including a student/alumni lounge on the main floor and six new classrooms on the second and third floors. Now, an internal walkway which begins at Barrington Street passes through the Sexton Gymnasium (J) Building and past the McNab (A) Building's new printing centre and campus bookstore to a foyer for both the McNab and the B Buildings which also houses the office of the Dean of Engineering. The foyer allows access to a new elevator

and a stairway - skylit from above - to both the McNab Building's library and the B Building's new second floor classrooms, as well as to the computer centre and new student/alumni lounge on the main floor. Following the walkway westward leads to a foyer which links the C (Electrical Engineering) and Macdonald (D) Buildings and finally to the parking areas outside. The official opening on December 9, 1992 was attended by Nova Scotia Premier Don Cameron, President of the TUNS Alumni Association Mr. Garth Mallett and members of the business community.

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Opening of the Computer Integrated Manufacturing Design Facility (L-R: A.A. Mufti; J. Matheson; D. Cameron), April 29, 1989

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