

# *The Buildings of Dalhousie University*

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## A. E. Cameron (P) Building

Address: 1360 Barrington St.

Start Date: 1967

Completion Date:  
Spring 1968

Architect: Robert J. Flinn

Renovation Date(s):  
1988-90

Contractor: MacDonald  
Construction Co. Ltd.

### Building History

The A.E. Cameron (P) Building was designed by architect Robert J. Flinn and built by contracting firm MacDonald Construction Co. Ltd. of Bedford, NS. The building, which was designed for horizontal expansion, was originally 5511 square feet, three stories and built to house ceramic material research laboratories. Built on part of the grounds of a former county jailyard - which had come into the possession of the Nova Scotia Technical College - the building was completed in the spring of 1968 and was officially opened by Dr. A.E. Cameron himself with a brief ceremony on May 8, 1968. The construction cost \$169,235, with all but \$12,115 of the funding coming from an Atlantic Development Board grant.

During the 1974/75 academic year, the Physical Metallurgy and part of the Chemical Metallurgy operations of the Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering were moved from the Murray (G) Building to the Cameron Building.

During the 1987/88 academic year, funds were obtained for the filling-in of the Cameron Building's breezeway for a student study area, seminar rooms, a small library and to return a large laboratory area back to its former use. The funds came from Canadian mining and metallurgical companies and were raised by the efforts of Dr. H.A. Hancock of the Mining and Metallurgical Engineering Department, with assistance from TUNS' Department of Community Relations. The designs for this building project were drawn by Mr. Jim Donahue - a TUNS School of Architecture professor from 1963 to 1976 - with project planning by the TUNS Physical Plant's Design Department. The new Study and Resource Centre was in use by the 1989/90 academic year, with its official opening held on September 19, 1990.

The P Building is named after Dr. Alan Emerson Cameron, the second President of the Nova Scotia Technical College (from 1947 to 1957). Born in 1890 in London, ON, Dr. Cameron graduated in 1913 from McGill University with a Bachelor's degree in Mining Engineering with honours in geology, and then again in 1914 with



A.E. Cameron Building - Metallurgical Engineering Building - Exterior - 1, n.d.



A.E. Cameron Building - Metallurgical Engineering Building - Exterior - 2, n.d.

an M.Sc. in Mining Engineering. After graduating, Dr. Cameron joined the staff of the University of Alberta to help develop its Department of Mining Engineering. During the World War I era, Dr. Cameron worked with the Geological Survey of Canada in the Northwest Territories, and then served in France and Belgium as a Lieutenant of Engineers with the Imperial Munitions Board.

When the war ended, Dr. Cameron returned to the field of post-secondary educational instruction, first with the now-defunct Khaki University in England and then again with the University of Alberta, spending six years teaching Mining and Metallurgy. His scholarly and professional pursuits involved him in the areas of mining engineering and metallurgy throughout Canada, especially in the Northwest Territories; he also engaged in professional consulting work, particularly in oil exploration in Alberta as well as in the Territories.

Dr. Cameron left the University of Alberta from 1924 to 1925 to obtain his Doctor of Science degree in Metallurgy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and then returned to the University to become an Associate Professor - and later a full Professor - in Metallurgy. Dr. Cameron was also appointed secretary of the Research Council of Alberta, carrying out mineral explorations in Northern Alberta in that capacity, as well as taking on private consulting work. Dr. Cameron's professional pursuits in the Canadian north from 1925 to 1937 included the search for radium in the Great Bear District and the exploration of the Headless Valley of the South Nahanni River district. In 1937, Dr. Cameron joined the Nova Scotia Department of Mines as Deputy Minister, spending a decade in that position before resigning to become President of the Nova Scotia Technical College.

Dr. Cameron maintained a high level of involvement with professional associations throughout his career, holding executive positions - including that of President - in the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Mining Society and the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Dr. Cameron was also the Nova Scotia representative on the Dominion Council of Professional Engineers, and prepared and presented the Nova Scotia brief to the Royal Commission on coal in 1944.

Dr. Cameron died on March 7, 1977 in Eastern Kings Memorial Hospital in Wolfville, NS.

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### **References**

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