

The Buildings of Dalhousie University

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H. R. Theakston (C1) Building

Address: 5269 Morris St.

Start Date: November 1967

Completion
Date:
November
1968

Architect: Napier & Napier (architectural Renovation firm), with Dr. Orest Cochkanoff and Dr. D.A. Bowen

Contractor: Fraser-Brace Maritimes Ltd.



H.R. Theakston Building - Mechanical Engineering (under construction), n.d.



H.R. Theakston Building, October 1969

Building History

The C1 Building was made as an addition which would double the size of the C Building and to contain new and better shop facilities, plus offices, administration space and seminar rooms for both the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Departments. The building has three floors, each 7,000 square feet, a basement and an equipment penthouse; it was intended to more closely integrate the research and teaching activities of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Departments.

The building was designed by the architectural concern Napier & Napier, in conjunction with the heads of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Departments, Dr. Orest Cochkanoff and Dr. D.A. Bowen respectively. The building contractors were Fraser-Brace Maritimes Ltd., with the provincial Department of Public Works acting as the client on the College's behalf. Construction began in November 1967 and was completed in November 1968. The building's \$871,089 cost was financed by the Nova Scotia Technical College's Fund Raising Campaign and a \$715,000 loan from the Province of Nova Scotia. The building was officially opened by Mrs. H.R. Theakston in May 1969 during the College's annual convocation ceremonies.

The first and second floors originally belonged to the Mechanical Engineering Department, which included laboratories for thermodynamics, fluid dynamics, stress analysis, biomedical and machine design as well as the department's reconstructed Heat Engines Laboratory. The third floor held offices and seminar rooms to be shared by the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Departments, while a machine shop, a carpenter's shop, stores and maintenance facilities were housed in the basement, whose service entrance opens to Morris Street for stores delivery.

In 1999, the S Building (the former Tech House) was renovated and

a 14,000 square foot link addition which linked it to the H.R. Theakston (C1) Mechanical Engineering Building was completed. The \$2 million cost of the project was taken from Dalhousie University's operating funds and a provincial grant which followed the Dalhousie/TUNS merger (Akhtar 1).

The C1 Building was named after Dr. Harold Raymond Theakston, who graduated from the Nova Scotia Technical College with a Bachelor's degree in Mining Engineering in 1921; the College granted him an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree in 1954.

Dr. Theakston was born in Monckton, Vermont in 1895 and moved to Nova Scotia while a youth, receiving his early education at Sydney Academy. After graduating from Dalhousie University's engineering course in 1915, Dr. Theakston served in World War I. Upon his return, Dr. Theakston worked in the profession and completed the two-year engineering course at the College, receiving the Governor General's Medal when he graduated in 1921. In September 1921, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Engineering as well as the Engineer-in-charge of Buildings and Grounds at Dalhousie University. Dr. Theakston was made a Professor of Engineering at Dalhousie in 1929 and the Head of its Department of Engineering in 1949, teaching Graphics throughout his tenure there. In 1951, he was named the first Clarence Decatur Howe Professor of Engineering.

Dr. Theakston's position entailed considerable involvement in the physical development of Dalhousie's Studley Campus, and also in that of Memorial University of St. John's, NF in his capacity as a consultant. Apart from Dr. Theakston's work in the engineering field, he contributed to the profession as an active member of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia, the American Society for Engineering Education and the Canadian Standards Association. He also served on the Senates of both the Nova Scotia Technical College and Dalhousie University. Dr. Theakston passed away in Halifax, NS on August 26, 1964.

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Renovation
Date(s): 1999

Contractor: Fraser-Brace Maritimes Ltd.

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Nova Scotia Technical College/TUNS/DalTech/Sexton Files

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