# The Buildings of Dalhousie University

# Industrial Engineering, Continuing Education & Addition

Address: 5269 Morris St.
Start Date: 1875  Completion Date: 1875
Architect:          Renovation Date(s): 1969; 1972; 1999
Contractor:

## Building History

This building was previously known as the Morroy Apartments, built in 1875 in "Victorian, Second Empire style . . . by Benjamin Gerrish Grey, a prominent local barrister. Members of the affluent West family later wintered at the house, and spent their summers in a home on the Northwest Arm. The building is given a stately Victorian elegance by its ornamentation and elaborate gables with cornices over its front doors" (Akhtar 1). The 16,000 square foot building has since been designated as a historic property by the Halifax Regional Municipality (Akhtar 1).

In 1969, the property was purchased by the Province of Nova Scotia and put under administrative control of the Nova Scotia Technical College. In the summer and fall of 1969, the building was renovated to provide a membership-based lounge and recreation facility - along with a floor of rooms for students - called the 'Tech House', which would be open to all students, faculty, professional engineers and architects in the Halifax area. The operation was run by the Tech House Society, the initiative of a concerned group of students, faculty and alumni and fully incorporated by law. The Society had its own Board of Trustees, and it was given an $8,000 start-up loan by the College's Board of Governors. Although the bulk of the renovations were done by the fall of 1969, the decoration and refurnishing - done by students of the College - was not completed until the year's end. The Tech House was officially opened on January 17, 1970 with a reception and the hanging of the Tech House Society's letter patent on a wall of the House by College President George W. Holbrook, along with a presentation of a $1000 cheque to Society representative Rob Williams by a representative of the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia.

The Tech House was damaged by fire on February 21, 1972. The damage was mainly limited to the residence rooms on the third floor. Although it continued to operate after the cleanup and some minor renovations, it was closed down in early 1977 as it was found to be a fire hazard.

In 1999, the building was renovated and a 14,000 square foot link addition which links 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 building is the current home of the Dalhousie University's Industrial Engineering and Continuing Education Departments, which had been previously been housed in the Maritime Centre in downtown Halifax.

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## References

### Online Resources

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### Publications

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- Nova Scotia Technical College/TUNS (Administrative) Newsletter. August 25, 1966, [p. 1]. Box 59, Sexton Design & Technology Library Stored Records Room (Sexton Campus, A Building).
- Nova Scotia Technical College/TUNS (Administrative) Newsletter. January 1970, p. 5. Box 59, Sexton Design & Technology Library Stored Records Room (Sexton Campus, A Building).

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