

The Buildings of Dalhousie University

Studley Gymnasium

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Address: 6185 South St.

Start Date: September 1931

Completion Date:
February 1932

Architect: Andrew R. Cobb

Renovation Date(s):

Contractor: McDonald
Construction Company

Building History



Studley Gymnasium - Hector McInnes
laying cornerstone, November 1931

Dalhousie's Studley Gym is one of the oldest buildings on campus. Before it, Dalhousie had a temporary gymnasium, built in 1921. When that was destroyed by fire in May 1931, plans for a replacement were immediately begun. Funding for the new gym came from a Bank of Nova Scotia loan.

The Studley gymnasium was designed by architect Andrew Randall Cobb, who worked on numerous other campus buildings such as the Macdonald Building and Chemistry Building. Its style was designed to be in harmony with the rest of campus. It featured modern heating and electrical systems and the best amenities for the time, including one of the largest gym floors in Eastern Canada. The gym was also convertible so it could be subdivided for different sports at the same time, and also used for examinations, convocations, lectures, theatre performances and dances.



Studley Gymnasium - Exterior - North,
n.d.

Contracting for the gymnasium was awarded to the McDonald Construction Company, which began work in September 1931. In November of that year, the cornerstone was laid by Board of Governors member Hector McInnes, who commented in his speech that the expansion of Dalhousie, in size and students, onto the Studley campus could be considered the Renaissance of the university.

The Studley Gymnasium opened in February 1932, with an official ceremony attended by President Carleton W. Stanley; Board of Governors Chairman G. Fred Pearson; architect Andrew R. Cobb; and contractor McDonald. The building cost \$150,000.



The Studley Gymnasium was home to the Athletics Department for many decades, as well as the School of Physical Education. By the 1970s, however, it was "outdated, dilapidated, [and] overtaxed" (University News, March 19, 1976). The student population of Dalhousie had multiplied more than eightfold and a new Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics Centre - the Dalplex - was greatly needed. The Studley Gymnasium remains a part of the athletics facilities at Dalhousie, however. It is "a cozy gymnasium" with a capacity of 200, still used for varsity team practices, intramural and club activities (<http://www.athletics.dal.ca/default.cfm?id=549>). There are also

Studley Gymnasium - Exterior, n.d. offices for faculty and staff of the School of Health and Human Performance, as well as a Dance Studio in the basement.

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References

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Dalhousie University Photograph Collection

- Gymnasium - Old Building. c1970-1979. PC1, 2.2.
- Studley Gymnasium - exterior. n.d. PC1, 2.11.
- Studley Gymnasium - Hector McInnes laying cornerstone. November 1931. PC1, 2.9.
- Studley Gymnasium - interior (women's exercise class?). n.d. PC1, 2.10.



Studley Gymnasium - Interior, n.d.

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- [Aerial view of Studley campus]. Pharos. 1941.
- [Panoramic view of Studley quadrangle, with old gymnasium, Arts Building, Murray homestead, Macdonald Library, Science Building]. Pharos. 1937, p. 6-7.
- [Studley Gym]. Pharos. 1988. p. 246.
- Gymnasium [exterior and interior]. Pharos. 1948.
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- Gymnasium, Dalhousie Univ., Halifax, N.S.[,] Main Floor Plan [blueprint graphic on a sheet of laminate]. n.d. Dalhousie Gymnasium [file], Item 4.
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- Dalhousie University Scrapbooks [newspaper clippings from across Canada pertaining to Dalhousie]. c1924-1959. 13 boxes of bound scrapbooks.

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- Buildings -- Electric wiring of. BoG Minutes. November 17, 1933; January 29, 1934. MS- 1-1, A-8, p. 92.
- Cobb [A. R.] - Close out all arrangements with him. BoG Minutes. November 5, 1920. MS- 1-1, A-6, p. 36.
- Gymnasium -- Plans for new building. BoG Minutes. September 8, 1931. MS-1-1, A-7, p. 213.
- Gymnasium -- Approaches from Morris Street. BoG Minutes. April 7, 1932. MS-1-1, A-8, p. 26.
- Gymnasium -- Cobb, A. R. -- Plans for new gymnasium. BoG Minutes. July 17, 1931. MS- 1-1, A-7, p. 208.
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- Gymnasium -- Costs, Building -- Building Committee -- Report. BoG Minutes. September 8, 1931. MS-1-1, A-7, p. 210.
- Gymnasium -- Dalhousie Alumni Development Fund -- Use for Gymnasium. BoG Minutes. June 14, 1934. MS-1-1, A-8, p. 102.
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- Gymnasium -- McInnes, Hector -- Laying of corner stone

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