

# The Buildings of Dalhousie University

## Burbidge Building

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Address: 5968 College St.

Start Date: 1922    Completion Date: 1923

Architect: Andrew R. Cobb    Renovation Date(s): 1956; 1960;  
1967; 1978; 2001

Contractor: A. T.  
MacDonald

### Building History



Burbidge Building, c1930s

The Burbidge Building was originally known as the Medical Science Building and is one of Dalhousie's oldest buildings. It was designed by Halifax architect Andrew Randall Cobb, the university's chief architect during the years of development on the Studley campus. Funding came from the Rockefeller Foundation, an American philanthropic organization which made possible several other building projects at Dalhousie in the 1920s. Construction of the Medical Sciences Building began in 1922, with the cornerstone laid on September 29, 1922, by the Dean of Medicine, Dr. John Stewart. The building is faced with tapestry brick and trimmed with granite and Wallace stone.



Burbidge Pharmacy Laboratory, c1969

Opening early in 1924, the Burbidge Building originally housed Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Hygiene. It was designed for 50 students and three staff. As numbers grew, some of these departments were relocated. In 1956 only Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Physiology were there. At this time the labs were remodeled and combined to accommodate the needs of all three departments, bringing a "modern scientific atmosphere" to the thirty-year-old building (Gazette, October 25, 1956).

By 1963, the Burbidge Building was being used by 70 undergraduates, three to six staff per department, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and other researchers. In 1967 construction of the Charles Tupper Medical Building on the Carleton Campus allowed the Burbidge Building to be given over to the College of Pharmacy. It was renovated again and its new tenants settled in 1968. The building was rededicated in 1970 in honour of the first Dean of the College of Pharmacy, George A. Burbidge.



Burbidge Pharmacy Building -  
Exterior, n.d.

The third floor was an addition provided for in Cobb's original plans and built in 1978. This floor was used by the School of Dentistry until 1982. It added 7500 square feet to the Burbidge Building. With the expansion of the Dentistry Building in 1982, a real health professions complex was created on the Carleton campus, a network that encouraged sharing of resources and facilities.

Another round of renovations took place on the Burbidge Building in 2001, when the Skills Lab was modernized, seminar rooms added, and classrooms enlarged. These improvements enabled the School

of Pharmacy to enroll 90 students, increased from the former 66.

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G.A. Burbidge (Dean, Maritime College of Pharmacy from 1925 to 1943), 1967

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