

The Buildings of Dalhousie University

Central Services Building

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Address: 1236 Henry St.

Start Date: 1968

Completion Date:
1971

Architect: Hancock, Little, Calvert
Associates

Renovation Date(s):
2003

Contractor:

Building History

Dalhousie's need for a powerhouse of its own was apparent by the 1960s, when a campus building boom suggested that the several scattered transformers would not supply the Carleton and Studley campuses with the electricity they needed for much longer. Henry Hicks responded to the university engineer's warnings, agreeing that Dalhousie should assume technical and financial responsibility for its power needs. Hicks himself recommended the site for the new transformer station between Henry and Seymour Streets - away from the main axis of campus but accessible to both Carleton and Studley campuses.

The Central Services Building at Dalhousie was begun in 1968 and completed in 1970. A \$2.9 million project, it was funded by a loan from the Nova Scotia government. The 4,160- volt line was expanded to a capacity of 23,000 volts. The project involved building tunnels between the newly-built Arts Centre, the Student Union Building and Killam Memorial Library, to extend the university's heating, lighting and distribution system beyond the existing links between the older buildings on the Studley campus.

A parkade was added to the Central Services building in 2003-2004.

Aside from the Physical Plant department, in the 1970s the Central Services Building housed Planning and Development, Commerce, the School of Physiotherapy, the mailroom, security and traffic offices and the University Engineer.

Today the Central Services Building houses departments of University Computing and Information Services, along with Facilities Management (formerly Physical Plant).



Central Services Building (formerly Physical Plant), November 1980



Central Services Building (formerly Physical Plant), c1970s



Central Services Building connected to
Anthropology and Sociology Building,
1976

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References

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Dalhousie University Photograph Collection

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- Physical Plant. c1970s. PC1, 2.2.
- Physical Plant. November 1980. PC1, 31.17.
- Sociology and Anthropology Building Connected to Physical Plant. 1976. PC1, 2.3.



Central Services Building - Control Room, 1971

PR Photos

- [Central Services Building - Basement]. 1971. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 8.
- [Central Services Building - Boiler Room]. n.d. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 10.
- [Central Services Building - Exterior - Side View] [5" X 7"] [copy 1]. [1980]. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 2.
- [Central Services Building - Exterior - Side View] [5" X 7"] [copy 2]. November 26, 1980. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 3.
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- [Central Services Building - Pipes]. n.d. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 11.
- Boiler Room - Central Services Bldg. September 14, 1971. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 6.
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- Central Services Building. 1971. Central Services Bldg. [file], Item 4.
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Central Services Building - Boiler Room, n.d.



Central Services Building - Exterior - Side View, 1980



Central Services Building - Pipes, n.d.



Central Services Building - Smokestacks, September 14, 1971

Proof Sheet - Central Services Centre, Aerial Views, Life Sciences Centre [8 images]. n.d. Buildings - General [file], Item 33.

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- Steuter, Erin. "The debt." Dalhousie Gazette. January 24, 1985, p. 3.

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- "Construction progress." University News. May 21, 1971, p. 12.
- "Services hookups continue." University News. November 9, 1978, p. 3.
- "The CSB, completed in 1971." University News. April 1978, p. 9.



Central Services Building (view from the north), 1971



Control Room - Central Services Building, 1971

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