

# The Buildings of Dalhousie University

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## Sexton House (E Building)

Address: 1360 Barrington St.

Start Date: 1913 Completion Date: Summer 1913

Architect: Renovation Date(s): 1952

Contractor:

### Building History



Sexton House - Exterior, n.d.

Completed in the summer of 1913, the building was originally constructed as a residence for Dr. Frederic H. Sexton, the first Principal of the Nova Scotia Technical College and Director of Technical Education, by the government of Nova Scotia "in lieu of an increase in salary" (Cameron and Cameron 12). Dr. Sexton occupied the building until his retirement in 1947.

In 1952, the residence was converted into the Sexton Administration Building for the Offices of College's President, Registrar and Bursar. It housed the administrative offices until 1961, when it was converted back into a residence - now called 'Sexton House' after its first occupant - for the new President (formerly 'Principal') of the College, Dr. George W. Holbrook.

In July 1971, the members of the Nova Scotia Technical College Faculty Club decided to accept the offer of the College's Board of Governors to use the Sexton House as its new Faculty Club location. The move of the Faculty Club's furniture and appliances from the MacNab (A) Building to the Sexton House was completed on July 26, 1971.

In the early 1990s, the Moren House (L Building) became the Technical University of Nova Scotia's new Faculty Club location.

On October 15, 1997, a petition signed by DalTech students, staff and faculty in support of the preservation of Sexton House "as an integral part of the heritage of the Nova Scotia Technical College and its successors, Technical University of Nova Scotia and DalTech" was submitted to Mr. Jack Flemming, the Chairman of Dalhousie University's Building Committee.

The E Building was named after Dr. Frederic Henry Sexton, founder and president of the Nova Scotia Technical College and the Director of Technical Education for the Province of Nova Scotia, both from 1907 until his retirement in 1947.

Born in New Boston, NH on June 9, 1879, Dr. Sexton graduated from MIT in 1901 with a Bachelor of Science and instructed there until his appointment as Assistant Professor of Mining Engineering at Dalhousie in 1904. In 1907, Dr. Sexton was chosen by the Province



F.H. Sexton - Portrait, n.d.



Sexton House (NSTC/TUNS Faculty Club) - Exterior - 1, n.d.

of Nova Scotia as both its first Director of Technical Education and President of Nova Scotia Technical College. During his early years in those positions, Dr. Sexton simultaneously organized the nation's first system of technical education and "laid the foundations for the future growth of the Nova Scotia Technical College."

Dr. Sexton put his passion for and knowledge of vocational education to use during both World Wars; for World War II, he was chosen to organize a training program in Nova Scotia for technical personnel for both the armed service and civilian work. After the war he carried out an extensive program of rehabilitation training for discharged service personnel which represented the largest program of vocational education ever undertaken in Nova Scotia.

In 1919, Dr. Sexton was given honorary Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Science degrees from Dalhousie and Acadia Universities respectively. For his work in preparing both armed forces and civilian personnel for World War II, Dr. Sexton was appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1943, by His Majesty, the late King George VI. In 1947, Mount Allison University awarded Dr. Sexton his honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree. Dr. Sexton died in Wolfville, NS on January 12, 1955.

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### References

#### Online Resources

#### Online Encyclopedia

- Rose, Phyllis. "Sexton, Frederic Henry." The Canadian Encyclopedia. Toronto: Historica Foundation of Canada, 2005. Accessed 27 June 2005. Available from URL: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0005533>. Internet.

### Photographs

#### Nova Scotia Technical College/TUNS/DalTech/Sexton Files

- [F.H. Sexton - Portrait 1]. n.d. UA-10, 82.13.1.
- [F.H. Sexton - Portrait 2]. n.d. UA-10, 82.13.2.
- [Sexton House - Exterior - Spring/Summer]. n.d. UA-10, 86.32.3.
- [Sexton House - Exterior]. n.d. UA-10, 82.9.6.
- Faculty Club ... (L-R) D.A. Roy; A.E. Creelman; P. Terroux [2 images: 1 proof sheet]. 1980. UA-10, 79.20.1.
- Faculty Club [party shot]. n.d. UA-10, 79.20.3.
- Sexton House (Faculty Club) [exterior 1]. n.d. UA-10, 80.3.1.
- Sexton House (Faculty Club) [exterior 2]. November 1957. UA-10, 80.3.2.
- Sexton House (Faculty Club) [exterior 3]. n.d. UA-10, 80.3.3.

### Publications

#### Nova Scotia Technical College Annual Report [by academic year]

- Nova Scotia Technical College Annual Report. 1971/72, p. 5. Killam Library, call no. T 173 N613.

### Textual Records

#### Nova Scotia Technical College Alumni Association Alumni



Sexton House (NSTC/TUNS Faculty Club) - Exterior - 2, November 1957 (date on photo)



Sexton House - Exterior - Spring/Summer, n.d.



Sexton House - NSTC/TUNS Faculty Club - Party Shot, n.d.

### **Bulletin (1946-1969)**

- Nova Scotia Technical College Alumni Association Alumni Bulletin. November 1952, p. 1. Box 55, Sexton Design & Technology Library Stored Records Room (Sexton Campus, A Building).

### **Nova Scotia Technical College Annual Report [by academic year]**

- Nova Scotia Technical College Annual Report. 1951/52, p. 10. Box 43, Sexton Design & Technology Library Stored Records Room (Sexton Campus, A Building).

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- [Dr. Frederick Henry Sexton]. n.d. UA-10, 7.1.
- [Sexton House Preservation Petition Form]. October 15, 1997. UA-10, 12.6.
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- Cameron, Jill and Lee Cameron. The First 50 Years[:] Nova Scotia "Tech" [booklet]. Halifax, NS: 1959. UA-10, 4.5 & 7.1.
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