

The Ingersoll-Starkey House 1918

This bungalow was built by Dyson and Sons around 1918 and Mr. & Mrs. Fred P. Ingersoll lived in the house when they were first married. In the 1980s, it was renovated into a veterinary clinic.

Builder and Occupants

The Ingersoll-Starkey House, at 359 Morphy Avenue, was the first house on Morphy Avenue. It was here that Mr. & Mrs. Fred Puterbaugh Ingersoll moved when they were married. Mr. Ingersoll came to Fairhope from Montgomery County, Iowa - southwest of Des Moines, Iowa - in 1921 as a 15-year-old. Mr. Ingersoll's father sold tallow from his cattle to Joseph Fels - a great supporter of Henry George and Fairhope. Fred worked as a plumber and then as a carpenter for Mr. Dyson, who built the house. Later, Fred had a dairy business on 80 acres on Greeno Road.

Fred's wife, Sadie Mae Winberg, was the granddaughter of a Swedish immigrant who in 1840, at the age of 12, stole away on a ship sailing to Pensacola, FL. He found his way to Point Clear, AL where he was found living in a hollow tree. The Winberg family thought that all single taxers were socialists so they were not supporters of the single tax theory, in opposition to her husband's family.

Fred's son, Charles, served Fairhope as a Director of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation from 1979-1984 and then as President from 1985-1999. In an interview that Charles held with F. Simmons and R. Rockwell in 1992, he spoke about his admiration for the "broad diversity and backgrounds of people who make Fairhope unique". He mentioned that he grew up in a "divided household" with regard to its support of the ideals of the single tax colony.

The Herbert Starkey family lived in the house from 1935-1970. This family operated the Electric Maid Bakery at 333 Fairhope Avenue, which was built in 1936. In the 1980s the house was turned into a veterinary clinic. The Bay Animal Clinic first occupied the building followed by the Colony Animal Clinic in 2013.

Structural Description

The Ingersoll-Starkey House was built by Marmaduke Dyson and Sons circa 1918. The house was constructed of "Dyson block", a dimpled concrete block made in Dyson's back yard. Clay City terra cotta tile and brick were also used. The front-gabled craftsman bungalow was covered with stucco.

The front of the building is dominated by a gabled porch which is slightly offset. There are three bay windows. The central entryway had a barrel-type awning and its arched openings in either side were glassed in at some point. The wood sash windows were fitted with grills. There were exposed rafter rails and a standing seam metal roof. A small gabled cockpit sat atop the roof of the main part of the house. The materials used to construct the house were designated as Art Deco.

A garage was added onto the house at a later date. The home was remodeled in 2017 with the addition of two kennels.