

230 S. 24th St.



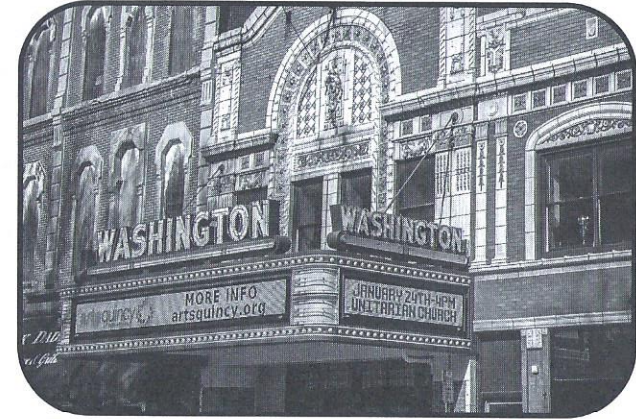
The house at 230 S. 24th was constructed in 1913 for Ray and Kate Oakley. Ray Oakley was born in Iowa in 1876. When he came to Quincy, he started as an office boy at the Quincy Herald Whig, partially owned by his uncle. Oakley eventually became bookkeeper, later General Manager, then part owner of the newspaper. In 1887, Ray married Kate Cameron Burks and had five children. Kate had taught school before they married. In November, 1912, Ray purchased a building site at 24th and York Streets, and the family's new house was finished in December, 1913. The Chamber of Commerce Glee Club hosted a house warming party for the family in February, 1914.

The Oakleys were active members of the community. Kate served on many committees, often as an officer. She was, for example, the president of the Women's Guild for the Congregational Church, President of the Madison School Parent Teacher Association and served as county chairman for the Federation of Clubs. Ray was a bowler and a golfer and belonged to the Bodley Masonic Lodge. They entertained frequently in their home, helping with fund raisers and hosting teas, receptions and card groups.

The house is a Prairie Style house with Arts and Crafts details, such as geometric leaded-glass windows and built-in window seats and book shelves. The architecture is attributed to Martin Geise. In 1916, the house was highlighted in the Quincy Daily Whig as one of Quincy's beautiful homes, with emphasis on its waxed English oak woodwork and open first-floor plan. Few changes have been made, with the exception of enlarging the foyer, removing the servants' stairs and enclosing the south porch.

The Oakley's youngest son, Thomas, eventually took over as General Manager of the newspaper and became the President of the Quincy Broadcasting Company which managed the local television station. He and his wife, Mary, also lived in the family home. Tom died in 1969 and the house remained in the Oakley family until Mary's death in 1993.

425 Hampshire St.



Washington Theater at 425 Hampshire opened June 16, 1924, at a cost of \$425,000, which was \$200,000 over the original projected cost. It was among five other theaters located on Hampshire Street, which was Quincy's version of the "Great White Way."

The Theater seated fewer than 1500. It featured a Barton, three manual, seven-rank organ and a depiction of George Washington on the fire curtain. In 1924, the building also housed a beauty parlor and a chiropractor's office, and today still has rental offices and studios.

The Mediterranean Revival movie palace was a creation of E.P. Rupert, who was among a number of Chicago architects who made a specialty of theater design. Theaters of the 1920's were important venues and featured vaudeville acts and musical performances along with the movies of the day. The gaudy facades stylistically matched the lavish exteriors of these social centerpieces.

Rupert also included in his eclectic "Mediterranean Mode" design Chicago based terra cotta patterns that were very popular in the 1920's. These pieces are concentrated above the front marquee and include polychrome masks of comedy and tragedy.

Although the construction took place in less than a year, it was marred by the death of one of the workmen. Henry Eickelschulte fell to his death from the wraparound balcony on April 2, 1924.

The building is currently owned by the City of Quincy. The all-volunteer organization, Friends of the Washington Theater, has been raising money to return the beautiful, landmarked building to its former splendor. Thus, the new marquee was added in 2009. Fundraising is currently underway with more information available on their website—<http://quincywashingtontheater.org>