

## *Fischer House*

As an early teen George Fischer began his working career as a tinner. With considerable enterprise at age 19 he formed a partnership in the stove and tinware business. A little later he entered business by himself at 625 Maine and later at 521 Maine in the stove and stoneware business. In 1890, he purchased an ongoing iron, steel, and heavy hardware business and called it Fischer Iron and Steel Company.

On the site of his boyhood home at the corner of 5th & Jersey Streets, he erected a very large foundry factory-warehouse (which would later become Tenk Hardware.)

He had married Euphemia Ricker in 1877, daughter of the founder of Ricker National Bank. In 1901 George became one of the incorporators of Modern Iron Works in addition to his own business. Finally he became Vice President and director of the Ricker Bank, as was his son after him.

The Fischer home, as the story goes, was built for his bride, and was at the time one of the stateliest homes on then sparsely populated South 16th Street. It was built as a single family dwelling on the standard Italianate floor plan and was constructed by the Buerkin & Kaempen firm. Interior wood trim was grained pine of standard millwork. A decalced iron mantel in the southwest parlor and other features attest to a fairly austere original appointments.

Around 1915 the home was sold to the same Kaempen family that had built the house. Shortly thereafter, the Kaempens made a number of major changes in the house, most noticeable of which is a front porch probably designed by Ernest Wood quite foreign to the style of the original house. A small rear wing was added and a thorough change of a back porch area added to a rear room (which was probably the original kitchen) making what is now the dining room. At the same time, the center stairway to the second floor was removed and a separate entrance to a separate second floor apartment was designed.

The third owner of the home, its present occupant J. R. Tode, has added her personal furnishings and light fixtures, and has made new function designations for the rooms. One of the most interesting features is a large collection of family memorabilia Mrs. Tode has displayed around the house and in a Quincy Showcase Co. display case.

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