

24 Monmouth Court

24 Monmouth Court, 1950, by Anderson & Beckwith
Addition of studio in 1961 and alteration to entrance 1991





Riverway Park

MBTA

24 Monmouth Court



Monmouth Court

24 Monmouth Court was built in 1950, designed by Anderson Beckwith for Charles and Alice Taylor. Charles Fayette Taylor (1894-1996). Was a professor at M.I.T. and a pioneer in the development of the internal combustion engine, particularly those in aircrafts. He was born in New York City and educated at the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale, received a B.A. in mechanical engineering in 1915. He served as a civilian inspector of aircraft material for the U.S. Signal Corps. He returned to Yale in 191 and later went to work at the U.S. Army's Air Service Laboratory at McCook Airfield in Dayton, Ohio. He next worked at the Wright Aeronautical Corporation in charge of airplane design. Taylor was on the team that developed the air-cooled "Whirlwind" engine used on the flights of Lindbergh., Byrd and Chamberlain.

In 1926, he began teaching at M.I.T and in 1933, left the aeronautical engineering department to become professor of mechanical engineering and director of the newly created Sloan Automotive Laboratories. He remained here until his retirement in 1960. His *The Internal Combustion Engine in Theory and Practice* is a standard in the field of automotive engineers.

After his retirement, he became a professional artist, building the studio and workshop at 24 Monmouth Court in 1961. In the 1940s, the Taylors created the Educational Counseling Committee of Boston which helped African-American children attend college. And like Samuel Clemens, Taylor lived more than a century and saw Halley's Comet twice.

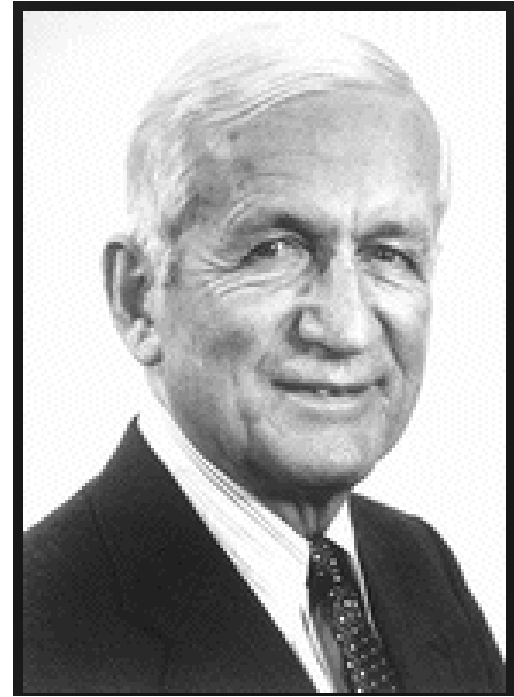


Charles Fayette Taylor

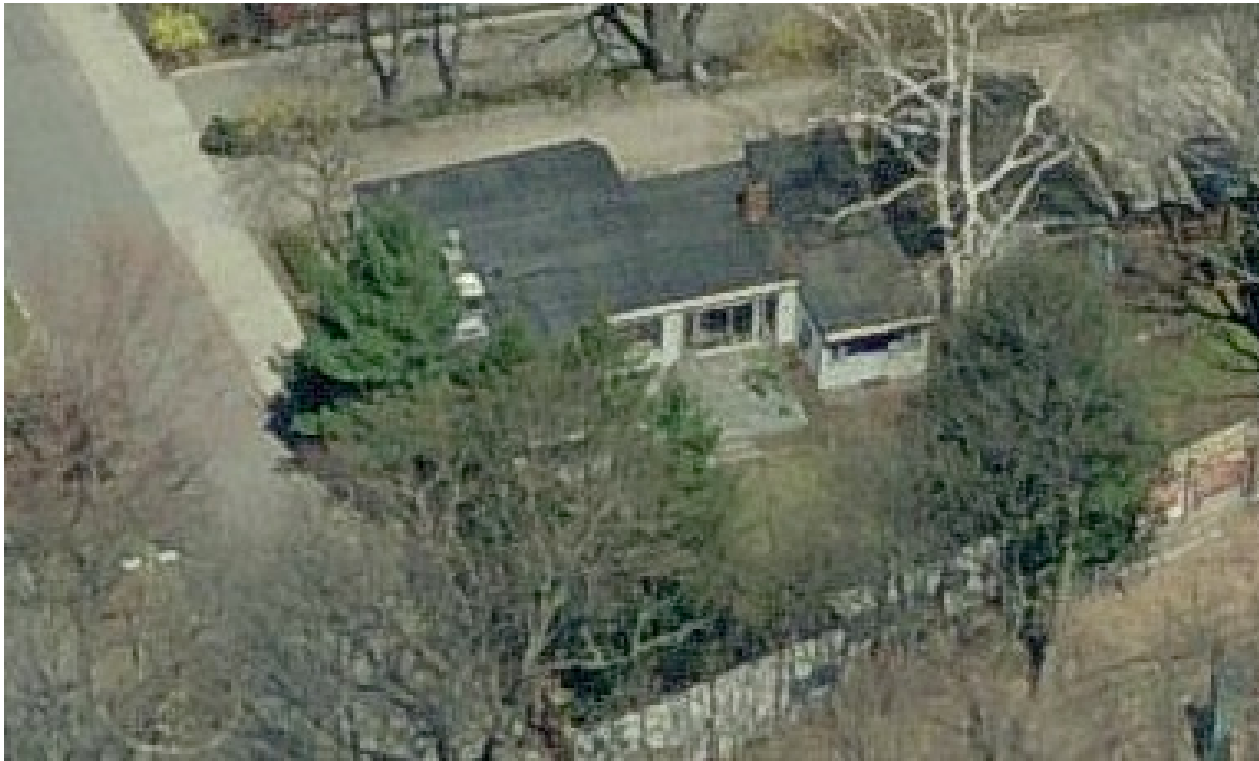
The next owner was Norman Foster Ramsey, Jr. (1915-2011), was an American physicist who won the Nobel Prize in physics (1989), together with Hans G. Dehmelt, for the invention of the separated oscillatory field method, which had important implications for the atomic clock. He was a professor at several institutions and held several posts with governmental agencies, including NATO and the U.S Atomic Energy Commission. He also helped found the Brookhaven Lab and the Fermi Lab.

He was born in Washington, D.C., to a father in military service. Ramsey, Jr. entered Columbia University, graduating as a mathematics major in 1935. He became interested in physics, getting another degree from Cambridge University. After getting a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1940, he became a fellow at the Carnegie Institution in D.C.

He married Elinor Jameson from Brooklyn in 1940 and began teaching at Univ. of Illinois at Urbana. Ramsey was soon recruited by the newly established Radiation Laboratory at M.I.T. under Alfred E. Loomis of the National Research Committee. He became the group leader of the magnetron division. This work resulted in the development of new microwave radar for fighter aircraft. In 1942, Ramsey returned to D.C. to work for Edward Bowles in the Office of the Secretary of War. He also became involved in the Manhattan Project, becoming the group leader of the Ordnance Division at Los Alamos in 1943. After the war, Ramsey returned to Columbia to teach and do research. He later came to Harvard and retired in 1986.



Norman Foster Ramsey, Jr.



This International Style house at 24 Monmouth Court was designed by Anderson & Beckwith in 1950. A 26 foot by 10 foot six inches workshop and art studio was in 1961. The kitchen and entryway were altered in 1991. The house still retains its original integrity with its siting, materials and form. There is a central with a front wing and a rear wing, almost in a capital I. Although the front was expanded in 1991, it retains much of the same character as the original.

The firm Anderson & Beckwith was founded in 1937 by Laurence Anderson (1906-1994) and Herbert Beckwith (1903-1997). As a graduate student, he won the Paris Prize for post-graduate study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Anderson was the former Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at M.I.T. From 1965 to his retirement in 1972. Before coming to M.I.T. in 1930, he taught at the University of Virginia. His impact on the study of architecture at M.I.T. were profound. More technical courses were added, including the study of solar heat and acoustics. He was also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the AIA.

Herbert Beckwith was born in Midland, Michigan and came to M.I.T in 1923. He received his SB in architecture in 1926 and began his long career of teaching at M.I.T., retiring in 1968. In 1953 and 1954, he acted as the associate of Eero Saarinen in the development of the Kresge Auditorium and the M.I.T.Chapel.



Raytheon Headquarters

The firm was founded in 1937. Both men were early proponents of the International style in America. Robert Retting wrote in his *Guide to Cambridge Architecture: Ten Walking Tours* that “Anderson & Beckwith's Alumni Swimming pool introduced the International Style to M.I.T. (in 1938-39). Their Rockwell Cage, designed in 1947, was another example of the modernist style with its ‘glass walled-, clear span.’ “

Other their buildings at M.I.T. include the Radiation Lab, the Van de Graaf Building (1948) and the Dorrance Food Laboratory (1950). With their other partner, Haible, the firm was responsible for McCormick Hall (the 1st women’s dorm at M.I.T.), the Whittaker Life Sciences Building and the Pierce Boathouse (1965).

The firm also designed the Brookline Town Hall (1965), the Science building at UMAss Boston, and Raytheon’s Executive Building in Lexington, MA.



Rockwell Cage, M.I.T



MIT Alumni Swimming Pool



The house at 24 Monmouth Court meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- a. The building is listed or is within an area listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places;
- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The house retains its integrity in terms of its location setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. It is an important International Style building by significant architects and located in the Longwood NR/SR Districts. It is association with two important scientist, one a Nobel Prize winner.