

## Historical Record

### 690 Colusa Avenue, Berkeley

Our thanks to Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association for preserving these records and making this information available.

For membership and contributions to this wonderful organization go to:

<http://www.berkeleyheritage.com/>

We are indebted to The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) for working with us in our attempt to find out as much as possible about 690 Colusa Avenue.

Anthony Bruce of BAHA told us he believes that although the tax record indicates 1925 as the date of construction, 690 Colusa was most likely built prior to 1920.

We learned that much of what we now regard as the Thousand Oaks neighborhood was not part of the City of Berkeley until about 1921 when adjacent county lands were annexed. Since this neighborhood was outside the city proper, building records were not required or maintained, so we were not successful in establishing any architectural provenance for this home despite its lovely interior and distinctive facade of wide-spreading wings with mansarded and balconied detail on the Portland Street side.

We're calling it a Craftsman home and include BAHA records collected over years of real estate sales, and indicating a variety of styles from "John Hudson type" to "English", "Mediterranean", and even "American" and "Old Berkeley"! Note the photos showing the sun deck railing originally in place at the second level. The door to the deck still exists.

690 Colusa certainly appears to us very unlike the Craftsman bungalow style construction that occurred during North Berkeley's great building boom of the early 1920s. But whatever it is, Craftsman, or something entirely its own, it's a truly unique delight of a home!

September 24, 2009

Ira & Carol Serkes  
Pacific Union International, Inc.



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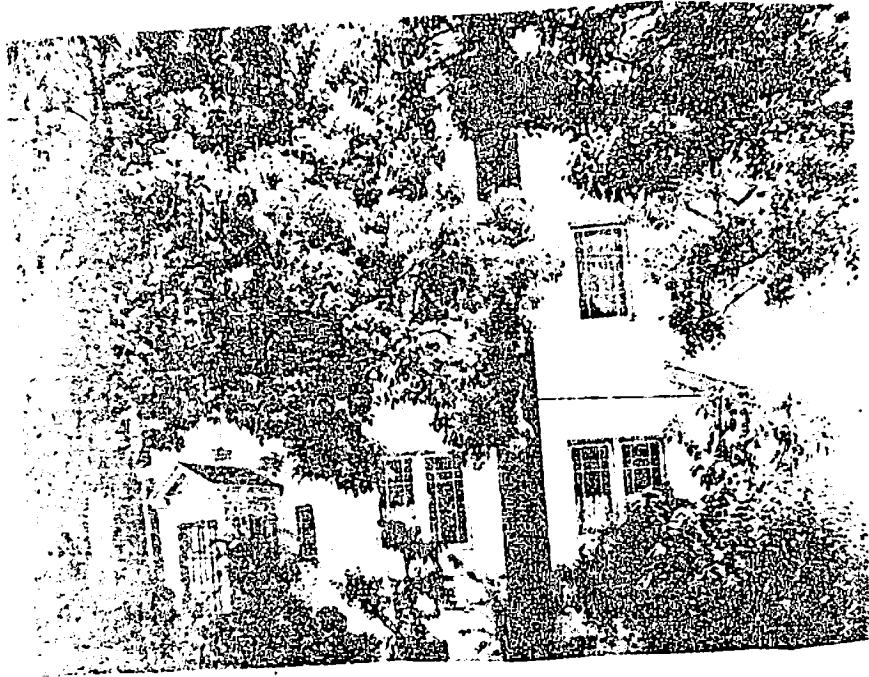


LOCATION 690 Colusa Ave., Berkeley  
 OWNERS B. Bishop PHONE 524-3833 2 LEVELS  
 ADDRESS same 527-0687 5 ++ ROOMS  
 OCCUPIED BY seller PHONE 526-5143 2 + up BDRMS.  
 LISTING OFFICE Mason-McDuffie Co. PHONE 526-5143 separate LIV. RM. SIZE  
 HOW SHOWN BY APPT. ONLY, CALL BOTH NUMBERS. 1 1/2 DINING RM.  
 POSSESSION DATE close of escrow or Dec. 15, 1975. 1 1/2 BATHS  
 TOTAL TAXES (BEFORE VETS EXEMP.) \$1004.74 hdwd SHOWER  
 PRESENT LOAN \$26,000. American S & L yes FLOORS  
 LOANS AVAILABLE American Savings yes FIREPLACE  
 TERMS OF SALE all cash to seller, yes BKFAST RM.  
 REMARKS Beautifully restored old home. New kitchen CG (3 yrs) HEAT  
with large breakfast area or family-type room. partial BASEMENT  
Nice old wood moldings and built-in diningroom 1 det. GARAGE 1 ly  
cabinet. Bright and airy. Nice entry hall. T&G (4yr) ROOF  
Charming windows. stucco EXTERIOR TYPE  
D0300) Exp: 1-7-76 S-50 Bernice Ribo 529-0968 John-Hudson STY  
50 appr. AGE  
irreg. LOT SIZE

Location	Rms.	Bd.	Bths.	Gar.	Heat	Age	Price
690 Colusa Ave., Berkeley	5++	2+	1 1/2	1d	CG	50+	55,000.

MLS # C7614 - 6% Location 690 Colusa, Berkeley (7-16-73) Price \$ 32,950  
 Owners M/M Donald L. Fentress Phone 526-1403 2 Levels  
 Address Same 7 Rooms  
 Occupied By Owners Phone 527-3030 2+den up Bdrms.  
 Listing Office Ellis Co., Realtors Phone 527-3030 large Liv. Rm. Size  
 How Shown BY APPT - IF NO ANSWER KEY IN L.O. large Dining Rm.  
 Possession Date COE 1 1/2 Baths  
 Total Taxes (Before Vets Exemp.) \$1,000 approx. no Shower  
 Present Loan \$18,000 American Savings hdwd Floors  
 Loans Available Go thru American Savings yes Fireplace  
 Terms of Sale Cash to seller yes Bkfast Rm.  
 Exchange for: Nothing cg Heat  
 Remarks Natural gum woodwork, Entry also on Portland. Large deck. small Basement  
New central furnace. House now being painted. (Just been sand- 1 Garage  
blasted) Close to bus and Solano shopping. t&g Roof  
stucco Exterior  
old Berk. Style  
50? Age  
irreg. Lot Size  
 (EXP:10-16-73) (S-60-R) (Ebba Young 652-0482)

C7614	Location	Rms.	Bd.	Bths.	Gar.	Heat	Age	Price
690 Colusa, Berkeley		7	2+	1 1/2	1	cg	50?	32,950



(A8616) JUL 15 1960 *Dolly* HOME ~~DATE~~ DATE 8-13-60 PRICE  
 LOCATION 690 Colusa Ave., Berkeley 5-13-60 \$ 22,000.00  
 OWNER Ltella G. Flynn 19,500 PHONE Th 3 0272 STORY  
 ADDRESS 2010 Virginia St., Berkeley 6x RMS.  
 OCCUPANT vacant PHONE 2x BR'S.  
 LIST. OFF. Thomas L. Knight PHONE Th 8 7617 yes DR.  
 SHOWN LOKBOX ON DOOR ON 1799 PORTLAND ENTRANCE 1 1/2 BATHS  
 WHY SELLING? JUL 5, 1960 / 1st S/L Comm. 14,000 / 17 yrs no SHWR.  
 POSS. DATE after close of escrow / 1/2 % loan fee 7.2% hdw FLRS.  
 TAXES (BEFORE V. EXEMP.) \$264.00 yes F PLACE  
 CAN \$9,600.00 Private \$85.00 inc. 6% BKfst RM  
 (Am't) (Whom) (Pay't) (Vat) furnace HEAT  
 LOANS AVAIL. JUN 24 1960 owner wants action yes BSMNT  
 SALE TERMS \$5,000 down. Owner will take back difference 1 car GARAGE  
in 2nd at \$100.00 or more per mo. inc. 7 1/2% int. shingle ROOF  
 EXCHGE. Nothing (Due date 6 yrs on 2nd Note D/T) stucco EXT.  
 REMARKS All the furniture in the house can be American STYLE  
purchased for \$500.00 additional. Roof over 25 AGE  
is one year old. Exterior of house just Irreg. LOT SIZE  
painted.

POSTAL ZONE: SALESMAN T.Knight Th. 8-7617

Home #	Location	Rms.	Br.	Bths.	Gar.	Heat	Age	PRICE
A8616	690 Colusa Ave., Berk.	6x	2x	1 1/2	1	fur	over 25	\$ 22,000.00

(B5211) HOME DATE: 8-12-65 PRICE  
 LOCATION 690 Colusa, Berkeley 5-13-65 \$ 31,500.00  
 OWNERS Mr. & Mrs. Farr PHONE La 4-7207 2 LEVELS  
 ADDRESS same 5x ROOMS  
 OCCUPIED BY owners PHONE 2x BDRMS.  
 LISTING OFFICE Thousand Oaks Realty PHONE 524-2738 19x13 LIV. RM. SIZE  
 HOW SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT. KEY AT L.O.  
 REASON FOR SELLING Leaving area. 1 1/2 DINING RM.  
 POSSESSION DATE To be determined. no BATHS  
 TOTAL TAXES (BEFORE VETS EXEMP.) \$365.00 hdwd SHOWER  
 PRESENT LOAN Not assumable yes FLOORS  
 (Amount) (Whom) (Payt. incl. T. & I.) (Int.) yes FIREPLACE  
 LOANS AVAILABLE 80% S.P. yes B'KFAST RM.  
 cg HEAT  
 TERMS OF SALE Cash 220W ELEC.  
(OPEN FOR BROKERS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2-4 P.M.) small BASEMENT  
 EXCHANGE FOR Nothing/Sch: 1000 Oaks, Garfield, Berkeley Hi 1 GARAGE  
 REMARKS Spacious home w/central entrance hall enter- asp-shgl ROOF  
ing from both Colusa & Portland. Some view. stucco EXTERIOR  
Small yard. Lends well for entertaining. Med. STYLE  
Immaculate condition. (Mark Burns La 6-6317) 35x AGE  
 BERKELEY REALTY BOARD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS ON LISTING DATA 89x112x67 SQ. FT.  
 Home # Location Rms. Br. Bths. Gar. Heat Age Price LOT SIZE

B5211)	690 Colusa, Berkeley	5x	2x	1 1/2	1	cg	35x	\$ 31,500.00
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808  
1  
030

(C 0124) HOME DATE: 3-3-69  
 LOCATION 690 Colusa Ave., Berkeley 12-2-68 PRICE \$ 32,500.00  
 OWNERS Mrs. Donald Fentress PHONE 841-8635 2 LEVELS  
 ADDRESS 1622 Milvia, Berkeley 7 ROOMS  
 OCCUPIED BY vacant 3 BDRMS.  
 LISTING OFFICE Mason-McDuffie Co. PHONE 845-0200 large LIV. RM. SIZE  
 HOW SHOWN LOKBOX separate DINING RM.  
 REASON FOR SELLING Surplus 1½ BATHS  
 POSSESSION DATE COE yes SHOWER  
 TOTAL TAXES (BEFORE VETS EXEMP.): \$853.24 1968-69 hdwd FLOORS  
 PRESENT LOAN \$20,541.27 Am S&L 25 years 6% yes FIREPLACE  
 (Amount) (Whom) (Payt. incl. T. & I.) (Int.)  
 LOANS AVAILABLE cg B'KFAST RM.  
 220W HEAT  
 TERMS OF SALE Cash to seller. yes ELEC.  
 1 det BASEMENT  
 XCHANGE FOR asph shgl GARAGE  
 REMARKS Attractively decorated home. Sundeck, LR & DR stucco ROOF  
 are charming. Kitchen appliances included. English EXTERIOR  
 Immaculate condition - immediate occupancy. app 40 STYLE  
 Schools: Thousand Oaks, Berkeley High, Garfield SO. FT.  
 (Florence Phillips 526-8754) 112.03

BERKELEY REALTY BOARD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS ON LISTING DATA

Home #	Location	Rms.	Br.	Bths.	Gar.	Heat	Age	Price
C 0124)	690 Colusa Ave., Berk.	7	3	1½	1d	cg	40	\$ 32,500.00

808  
1  
030

(C 0459) HOME DATE: 6-25-69  
 LOCATION 690 Colusa, Berkeley 3-25-69 PRICE \$ 29,500.00  
 OWNERS Mrs. Donald, Carolyn Fentress PHONE 526-1403 2 LEVELS  
 ADDRESS Same 7 ROOMS  
 OCCUPIED BY Owners 2+ up BDRMS.  
 LISTING OFFICE Mason-McDuffie Company PHONE 845-0200 large LIV. RM. SIZE  
 HOW SHOWN BY APPT. WITH OWNER, KEY IN L.O. WHEN NOT separate DINING RM.  
 REASON FOR SELLING AT HOME 1½ BATHS  
 POSSESSION DATE To be negotiated yes SHOWER  
 TOTAL TAXES (BEFORE VETS EXEMP.): \$853.24 hdwd FLOORS  
 PRESENT LOAN \$20,500 apx. Amer. S&L - 25 yrs. 6% yes FIREPLACE  
 (Amount) (Whom) (Payt. incl. T. & I.) (Int.)  
 LOANS AVAILABLE CG B'KFAST RM.  
 220W HEAT  
 TERMS OF SALE Cash to seller yes ELEC.  
 SCHOOLS: Thousand Oaks, Garfield, Berkeley High 1 det GARAGE  
 XCHANGE FOR No asph shgl ROOF  
 REMARKS Attractively decorated home - Sundeck-Spacious stucco EXTERIOR  
 living room, large separate dining room. Owner English STYLE  
 occupied - Now shows beautifully. 40 apx. AGE  
 (Florence M. Phillips 526-8754) 89.20x67.11x112.03

BERKELEY REALTY BOARD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS ON LISTING DATA

Home #	Location	Rms.	Br.	Bths.	Gar.	Heat	Age	Price
C0459	690 Colusa, Berkeley	7	2+	1½	1	CG	40	\$ 29,500.00

PRICE # **690 COLUSA** STREET RENT \$ MO.  
 LOT # **X** MTGE \$ DUE INTEREST %  
 BLOCK LENDOR **JUL 15 1960** NO. OF ROOMS  
 TRACT **MAY 20 1960** **Sold 19,500** NO. OF BEDROOMS  
 HEATING **M.L.A. 8616** NO. OF STORIES  
 FLOORS **22,000** **MAY 18 1965** **B5211-31,500** NO. OF APTS.  
 BASEMENT **DEC 5 1968** **C0124-32,500** NO. OF FLATS  
 EXTERIOR FINISH **APR 1 1968** **C0459-29,500** NO. OF DUPLEX  
 AGE NO. OF STORES  
 TAXES NO. OF GARAGES  
 FIRE INSURANCE BATHS SHOWER  
 EXCHANGE TOILETS  
 ROOF BRKFST NOOK  
 KEY AT

DATE	OWNER	ADDRESS	PHONE	REV. STP.	PRICE
3-4-42	Heeler K. Johnson				
MAY 20 1960	Luella Flynn			2h 3.0272	
8-15-62	James R + Margaret A. Farr	BT Ba 17000			19.25
OCT 13 1965	Donald L. & Carolyn M. Feubess	BT. Amel. S/L 21,800			32.45

AUG. 22 1973 Barbara Bishop DTASHL 26500 -  
JAN. 10 1974 Kitchen remodel - 4553  
DEC. 17 1975 Carole M. Ward DTASH - 44000 -

3685

6050



1939 ?

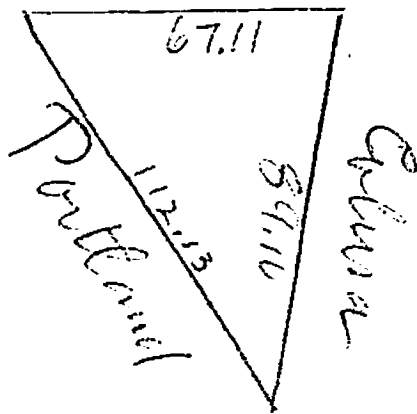
4/13/56

(690 Grosse)  
1799 Portland)

Estate Helen K Johnson -

Appraised \$150,000 -

in our office  
Key at Title Office



2 Story Structure  
6 Rooms 1 1/2 baths  
1 cm garage  
Roof leaks -  
Requires renovation

Albert S Kindinger city Hi 4-4292  
1072 Syndicate Bldg  
1414 Broadway Oakland -

Final date for bids May 7<sup>th</sup> 1956