

The Jean Mayo Home

716 Faulkner Street

When Dr Reeves built 716 Faulkner Street in 1954, it was the last lot available on the block. Reeves included a roof-fed cistern along with, somewhat unusually, a bomb shelter that still remains in the lot's SW corner. In 1995 the carport became an enclosed garage, and both side and rear patios were added.

A gem of mid-20th century design, 716 remains primarily as it was originally structured with two pleasingly asymmetrical lateral wings: private rooms to the left and public rooms to the right; garage and laundry inset somewhat to create a welcoming garden entry. The interior floor plan and higher ceilings are original, along with the bedrooms' wood parquet floors. Also, the bathrooms with original tile, and their back-slanted sink vanities that suggest a roomier space than exists. Generous spans of large windows throughout further increase a sense of enlarged space. The kitchen maintains its original efficient footprint, updated somewhat, but still retaining the feel of its time.



In 2008 Jean rescued the property from having been a long-time rental that had passed through several owners' hands. She brought it into its present state by replacing the roof and soffits, front entry door and rear slider, garage door and all the windows. The quarry tile flooring in the public area and private wing hall was an update Jean made prior to moving in.

Jean's excellent interior design choices further show off her home through artful mixing of selected furniture dating from the 1890's to today. Many older pieces came to her through her family, including an oak Victorian hall chair and a George Hunzinger (1835-1898) *Lollipop Chair* that her mother sat in daily throughout her life while embroidering. Jean's vibrant updating of its upholstered seat and back cushion with a contemporary black and white printed fabric ties together remaining seating throughout the open-plan public area: a black cushioned 1940s rattan sofa, two grey upholstered club chairs (one armless and round, the other square) and a modern white upholstered sofa. Various Heywood Wakefield pieces are distributed through several rooms. Artworks (many purchased from artists at the Hub artists, mirrors, shelving, lamps and room screens further enliven the walls and expand the home's open airy feel.



Up through World War II, most Faulkner Street properties remained the agricultural northern town boundary. This property was the final division from a block wide and deep parcel that once stretched between Wayne and Eleanor and from Faulkner to Neal, and quite possibly also included the river frontage on the east side of Faulkner. Its initial homes, built in the mid 1920s, fronted the north end of Neal Street. 720 at the corner of Eleanor came next, in 1941, then 714 five years later when the first part of 711 across the road was also built. In another five years, 705 was

built at the southern end of Faulkner along with several houses on the south end of Neal joining the first two.

About the Bomb Shelter A hand-cranked blower cycled exterior air drawn into the shelter back outside through the still present turbine ventilator. Unfiltered air was considered safe to breathe because most radioactive particles are the size of sand, so aren't absorbed through the skin, but most systems did have some particulate filtration. Shelter inhabitants accessed the cistern water with another hand pump, though it is hard to accept that radiation exposed water would be safe to drink. The government recommended storing shelter water in large containers, along with canned food. As you can see from the information below (U S History.com), this shelter would be typical.

More elaborate plans suggested installing an electrical generator to provide all the comforts of home. Some custom built-in-place shelters were described as buried several feet underground somewhere in one's yard, with either tunnel access from a basement or a double-entry area through hatches in the yard.

Many shelters built [in this time period] were not designed well. They might block radiation, but were not built to hold people long enough for the threat to dissipate; [primarily] they lacked air-handling and waste-disposal systems.

