

117 Onyx Avenue
The Ruth Hershey House
Susan Lambrecht/Anton Finley

- Built in 1930, 3 bedrooms & 2 baths.
- From the time Ruth was 3 until she turned 87, she lived on Onyx (in 4 different houses). Ruth, her husband, Lyle Finley and their 2 children moved into 117 Onyx in 1956.
- The home is the original floor plan with the exception of an additional 300 square feet, which was added to the back bedroom.
- Sits on 2 lots and has a studio apartment above 2-car garage. Also parking for 2 additional cars in the back (a real treat on Balboa Island!).
- Over the years slightly remodeled & upgrades (defined below).

The Hershey family's impact on the Island is still noticeable today in the two iconic businesses the Hersheys set up and managed during their time here. The Village Inn, as it's now known, was built and opened by the Hersheys in 1932 as Hershey's Cafe. Hershey's Market opened in 1938 as Hershey's Market Spot and was run by the Hershey family for more than 40 years.

From the time Ruth was three years old until she turned 87, she called Onyx Avenue her home, living in four houses on the street. Ruth Hershey Finley, her husband, Lyle Finley and their two children moved into 117 Onyx in 1956. They moved from the small home that they built next to Ruthie's parents, Tony and Mina Hershey, at 206 Onyx. The home is the original floor plan with the exception of an additional 300 square feet, which was added to the back bedroom.

117 Onyx was built in 1930 and is three bedrooms and two baths. It sits on two lots and has a studio apartment above the two-car garage in the back. In addition to the two-car garage is the real treat – there is parking for two additional cars in the back!

Over the years the house has been slightly remodeled with the addition of several upgrades:

Living Room:

When the carpet was removed 20 years ago, the original red oak floors were exposed and refinished.

The high window facing the patio was added.

The French doors leading to the patio were added. The front door is original except the stained glass in the small window used to be colored.

The mirrored wall was added to open up the living room. It replaced a small opening from the kitchen into the living room.

The original brick fireplace and mantle were replaced in approximately 1965 for a more formal look.

Kitchen:

The kitchen was upgraded with new cabinets, wallpaper, a bay window behind the sink, and appliances approximately 20 years ago. The Hershey's Market tile work was also done at that time by Nancy Buck, who was the children's babysitter when they were young.

Dining room:

The window seat, and the current stained glass window were added about 20 years ago. The original window was much smaller and was made of small circles of colored glass.

Hall:

The built in cabinet was added ten years ago.

All Bedrooms:

Were newly carpeted, wallpapered and redone with fabrics 20 years ago.

Both Bathrooms:

Have the original counter tops and cabinets. The bathtub is also original. The shower in the master is 10 years old.

Yard:

There was one major modification to the patio. In the corner back by the apartment and the neighbor's house, there used to be a large fishpond and trickling waterfall, which held huge goldfish. After ten years, of consistently replacing the fish, (due to the neighborhood cats eating them) the fishpond was removed.

All the bamboo and Giant Bird of Paradise and palms in the patio are original. Ruth's daughter Susan remember her parents telling her that the people who build the home loved Hawaii, and that is why the original landscaping was primarily Hawaiian plants. All of the fences around the property have been replaced, and a large rolling gate was added to the back, making the home private from the alley.