

## **The Southern Counties Gas Company Building**

**114 E. Lemon Avenue**

The first building at this location was the Pioneer Livery & Feed Stable, owned and operated by Monrovia pioneer John A. Baxter. The stable was constructed in 1886 or 1887. John Baxter left Monrovia in 1889, but a stable operation continued at this location for about ten years, and then was succeeded by a business that sold hay, grain, wood, and coal. When John Baxter returned to Monrovia circa 1898 and established the Fashion Livery and Boarding Stables, this location became a storage area for wagons. The western third of the building was made into living quarters. The Monrovia City Directory for 1908-1909 lists the Monrovia Planing Mill Co. at this location. A surviving post card from the era reflects that the original wooden stable building had been replaced with a more substantial structure. Charles Slowensky, a local shoemaker, was living at this location in 1911, and the mill had apparently ceased operation. When the Monrovia City Directory for 1913-1914 was compiled, the Gem City Mill and Manufacturing Company was operating here. The third building at this site was constructed in 1922 for the Southern Counties Gas Company as its district headquarters. In addition to offices, the new building contained a display area for appliances, a training area for home economics, and a large shop area. Southern Counties Gas Company remained at this location for forty years. After a number of years of being vacant, the building was occupied by various businesses for the next twenty five years. In 1997, the interior of the building was completely renovated, and the paint on the exterior brick facade was removed. The building appears today as it did in 1922.