

.111 Mc Kinley Place

In the early days of Monrovia, what we know now as Foothill Boulevard was then White Oak Avenue, the principal residential street of the community. Large old Victorians, built during the city's boom days, lined the street and a double row of pepper trees, planted in 1887, arched overhead. The street was laid out in 1883 by E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin's surveyor, and received its name at that time. The western section passed through extensive orange groves on the north and south. One of these groves, a portion of Lot 93 of Baldwin's Santa Anita Tract, is shown on the 1904 and 1908 maps of Monrovia as belonging to A.J. Averell. At that time the property was outside the Monrovia City Limits, so records are sketchy.

The Monrovia City Directory for 1911 shows Henry K. Shields living on W. White Oak, the "first house west of Sunset Place." Later directories list the house with an address of both 729 and 829 W. White Oak. Since the house was constructed circa 1906, it appears that Averell had the house built and that Shields was the owner at the time the property was incorporated into the City of Monrovia.

By February of 1919 the property had become the home of Samuel O. and Jessie G. Beckman and their extended family. Samuel continued to operate the orange grove. Jessie Beckman was prominent social in Monrovia and is remembered for her tenure as president of the Monrovia Woman's Club, during which negotiations were completed for the purchase of the Matthews estate on North Canyon, home to the club for the next fifty years.

The post World War I boom generated the demand for more residential lots, and in 1923 the large parcels of the Sunset Tract east of the Beckmans were subdivided and Mc Kinley Place created. At that time the Beckman's former address of 829 W. White Oak became 111 Mc Kinley Place. Three years later, widened to four lanes, White Oak Avenue was re-named Foothill Blvd., and the quiet residential street of early years passed into memory.

Olive Beckman Clark inherited the house from her mother and made her home there with her husband Charles after Mrs. Beckman died in 1951. The Clarks further subdivided the property, reducing the parcel to the present quarter acre. The house passed into other hands in the 1970's after over fifty years of Beckman family ownership.

The house at 111 Mc Kinley Place is an attractive story-and-a-half structure in the Craftsman style. The dormer windows of the second floor and broad eaves of the porch and living room extension provide interesting contrasts with the shingle-clad exterior and granite foundation. Several leaded glass windows also enhance the exterior appearance of the house. The interior has been carefully restored by the current owners, who have refinished the interior woodwork as well as the quarter -swan oak floors. Period wallpapers and a completely renovated kitchen also contribute to the home's pleasing appearance.

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City of Monrovia Assessment Roll

Year Assessed to Subdivision Lot Block Land Impr Prop

1904Averell, A.J. Santa Anita Tract9334501000

Excerpts from Monrovia City Directories

1. 1908-1909 Little, Arthur J. 727 W. White Oak
2. 1911 (January) Little, Arthur J. r. 727 W. White Oak
Shields, Henry R. r.n.s. White Oak 1st h.w. of Sunset Place
Shields, W.F. r. W. White Oak nr Sunset Place
3. 1913-1914 Shields, Henry K. h 729 W. White Oak ave
4. 1919-1920 Little, Arthur J. (Emma E.) 229 (sic) E. Orange
5. 1923 Little, Arthur J. (Emma E.) h 228 E. Orange av
6. 1924 "
7. 1925 "
Little, Merle student
8. 1927 " 130 N. Canyon Blvd.