

224 W. Olive Avenue

The elaborately detailed cottage at 224 W. Olive was built in 1887 at 420 W. Walnut Avenue in Monrovia. Pioneer Monrovia William H. Evans and his extended family were photographed in front of the house in December of 1887 when they first arrived in Monrovia from Ohio. The house was acquired in 1888 by the Rev. Dr. William Stevenson, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Monrovia, and moved to the lot he owned just east of his first Monrovia home at 228 W. Olive.

William Stevenson was born in Pennsylvania in 1824, and migrated to Indiana as a young man. He married Cornelia Louise Shryer on January 17, 1849, and they became the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters, born in Illinois. Cornelia Stevenson died in 1879, and the following year Dr. Stevenson married Sarah A. Sampson, who came with him to Monrovia. In 1887 Dr. Stevenson became the second pastor of Monrovia's fledgling First Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was originally located at the corner of Olive and Primrose, so both houses were comfortably close to the church.

Dr. Stevenson became extremely active in the life of his new community, and was frequently called to speak at public gatherings because of his great eloquence. His first pastorate was from 1887 to 1888, and his second pastorate from 1889 to 1892. He was elected to the Monrovia City Council for a two year term in 1890. He was then called to the pastorate of the Methodist Church in Santa Monica in 1892, but retained ownership of the house until 1895, when it was sold to Morris William Young and his wife, Marion W. Young.

William and Marion Young purchased the house for their retirement years, and they spent the rest of their lives in the house. Morris William Young died July 19, 1899, and is buried at Live Oak Cemetery in Monrovia. Marion survived him by nearly thirty years, and died on May 28, 1927. She is also buried at Live Oak, and their graves are marked with distinctive granite boulder headstones.

After Marion Young's death, the house was not owner occupied for many years. Mrs. Bertie M. Gibbs was a long time renter in the 1930s. In 1948, the house was owned by Ralph Q. and Velma C. Badger. Their ownership was brief, and the house was then purchased by Emery L. and Thelma Sasser, who owned it for a dozen years. By 1961 the house had become the property of Mamie Woodworth, who as Mamie Fleming came to Monrovia from Oklahoma with her father and five sisters circa 1912, and spent the rest of her life here. At some point in the 1960s Mamie Woodworth divided the house into separate units, as the Monrovia City Directories indicate multiple residents during that period.

Mamie Woodworth was living in the house when the last Monrovia City Directory was compiled in 1971, and she died in Duarte on November 16, 1978. Subsequent to her death, the house was restored to a single family residence once again. For many years it was the home of a prominent local preservationist. The present owners acquired the

house in 2017. The house was awarded landmark status by the City of Monrovia on February 21, 2006