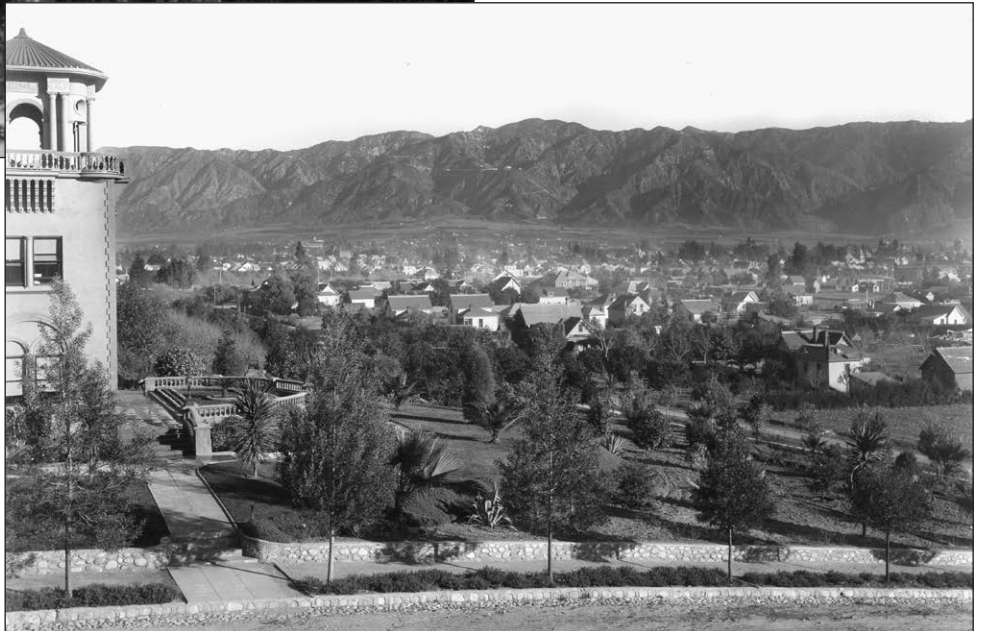




Left: This photograph of the Ross home appeared in a booklet published by real estate dealer Thomas Earley in 1894. On Grove Street, looking south.

Below: "Everything viewable in landscapes, light or shadow, can be viewed from Mrs. Dexter's verandas." This view from the home was taken a few years after Mrs. Dexter's time, but it indicates why the writer so lavishly described the vista of early Pasadena from Grove Street.



The essentially domestic life at Mrs. Dexter's tourist home

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On February 1, 1890 the *Pasadena Daily Evening Star* printed an article on the front page about "Tourists' Homes," noting that "In a country where boarding enters so largely into the business of existence, establishments equipped with the conveniences, comforts and luxuries of life, become a subject of universal interest."

Six homes were profiled, and the "transcendentally attractive threshold" of Mrs. E. B. Dexter was described in the florid writing style of the Victorian era:

"Most worthy of mention among the transient homes for tourists is the mansion of Mrs. E.B. Dexter, at 368 Grove street. Of New England birth and education, this accomplished proprietress naturally attracts the Yankee element, which means by interpretation, the best in the world, as it is unanimously conceded that those born in Bostonian atmosphere need no second birth.

"Life at Dexter's is essentially domestic. Each inmate in that widely gathered group (for all the guests come from across the continent) share the same sentiments, customs, tastes and circumstances.

"New England concoctions are conspicuous at that generous board. Among these rarified mornings, one might imagine himself in Boston, with the steaming brown bread, beans, batter cakes and coffee.

"One of the first things to attract a new arrival within that transcendentally attractive threshold, are the carved mantel and mouldings, the Corinthian like corridors and stair case, all of which were evidently done with an eye to the elegant. Each room is brightened by the morning or afternoon sun, heated by steam, and handsomely furnished.

"To speak of views in this connection, is like unto attempting to 'gild refined gold or paint

the lily." Everything viewable in landscapes, light or shadow, can be viewed from Mrs. Dexter's verandas."

Tourists would only enjoy the home for a few months more, as the newspaper reported on August 27 that John Ross "has retaken possession of his home on Grove street, which has been occupied by Mrs. Dexter for some time."

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut, Pasadena 91103); free parking in the Museum lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1-4 p.m. For additional information, please visit the Museum's website, pasadenahistory.org, or call (626) 577-1660, ext. 10.