



## Briarwood

In 1917 Woodrow Wilson was president. The United States entered World War I, the Russian Revolution was taking place and the Ottoman Empire was being disbanded. Charlie Chaplin was starring in his first silent movies.

Myers Park, which began development 5 years earlier, was now being serviced by the trolley, horse and buggy, and the newly emerging automobile. A blacksmith in the year 1917 was a jack of all trades.

On December 30, 1916, William H. Young bought a half acre lot at number 8 Briarwood Road in the newly formed Myers Park overlooking the lake and backing up to the Polo grounds now part of Queens Road West. Mr. Young was Charlotte's premier blacksmith with his shop at the corner of Church and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets where the rear portion of the Ivey's Building is now. It was across the street from the old Clanton hotel. He later was in the service station business with several stations throughout the City. W H Young, his wife and daughter moved into Briarwood leaving their home on E 5<sup>th</sup> St. near his business in 1918.

Design and construction of the mansion was carried out by Smith Thies Realty under the direction of architect Louis Asbury throughout the year 1917. Briarwood was one of Asbury's earlier masterpieces along with the Moody Mansion and the Stone Myers Park Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

Smith Thies, now Thies Mortgage, was a major player in the development of Myers Park and Eastover neighborhoods until the mid 1930s.

In the early 1940's Briarwood Rd was renamed Sharon Rd as it was extended across Briar Creek and connected with Sharon Rd moving out towards Governor Morrison's Farm at Sharon and Fairview Roads.

In 1955, at the death of Mary Young, Briarwood was sold to the Davis Family. Mr. Davis was president of PCA (Photo Corporation of America) located in Matthews, NC. The Davis' lived at Briarwood and raised their family until 1970, when it was sold to John Shrum. Mr. Shrum was president of RT Barbee Co. of Charlotte. Extensive renovations were done to the house in 1976 by the Shrum family. The Shrum family lived in Briarwood until 1999 when it was sold to Michael Wilkinson. The Wilkinson family lived here until 2010 when it was sold to John Geer.