

## **THIES REALTY COLLECTION, 1981-1995**

6 document boxes (3 cu. ft.)

### **ABSTRACT**

Oscar Julius Thies was born in Dahlonega, Georgia, to Carl Adolf (1832-1917) and Mathilde Frederica Hegmann Thies (1834-1912) on February 6, 1870. Carl was a prominent mining engineer in the Carolinas, and in 1904, he retired to a home he had ordered constructed at 544 Providence Road, Charlotte, North Carolina. Like his father, Oscar had also been involved in the development of mines across the south. He moved to Charlotte in 1906, and organized the Carolina Realty Company. This would become the Thies-Smith Realty Company in 1912, and later the Thies Realty and Mortgage Company in 1936. Thies was a highly respected builder, and Thies Realty built many of the homes in the Myers Park, Dilworth, and Elizabeth neighborhoods.

In 1943, Oscar Thies' health began to fail, and he died on December 27, 1943. His son, Frank Ramsay Thies (1904-2002), became President of the company that year. Together, they were among the leading developers and real estate executives in Charlotte throughout the 1900s. Continuing the family tradition, Frank's son, Frank Ramsay Thies, Jr. (1929-2012), joined the company following his military service and college education. Thies Realty is still a family-owned business, and it is located at 119 Huntley Place in Charlotte, North Carolina.

This collection includes maps and microfiche.

### **ACCESS**

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### **PREFERRED CITATION**

Cite as: Thies Realty Collection, 1981-1995, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

### **ACQUISITION**

Presented by Thies Realty, 2014.

Processed by Hannah Cox, November 2015.

## **HISTORICAL NOTE**

Carl Adolf Thies (1832-1917) decided he wanted to retire in Charlotte, North Carolina, following a long career as a mining engineer in the south. F.C. Abbott, a local real estate agent, found located a fourteen-acre plot of land along Providence Road, just outside of Charlotte, for him. Thies designed the house himself, and asked Frank Ramsay McNinch, a local attorney and brother-in-law of Carl's son Oscar, to oversee the construction. Thies fully retired from managing the Haile Gold Mine in South Carolina, and moved to his new home with his wife, Mathilde (1834-1912), in 1904. The home was renovated by their son, Oscar, in 1918-1919, and still stands today.

Oscar Julius Thies was born in Dahlonega, Georgia, in February 1870. He had two brothers, Adolph C. (1867-1936) and Ernst A. (1868-2908). He married Virginia Juanita McNinch in November 1895, and they had two children, Oscar Julius, Jr. (1896-1971), and Frank Ramsay (1904-2002). A mine developer himself throughout the south, Oscar had graduated from the Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana, with a degree in mining engineering. Oscar and his family moved to Charlotte in 1906, where he organized the Carolina Realty Company. Virginia died in July 1912, and Oscar's mother followed in October. The same year, the Carolina Realty Company became the Thies-Smith Realty Company. This company was responsible for building many of the homes in Myers Park, along with several in the Dilworth and Elizabeth neighborhoods. Oscar moved in with his father in 1915, and was heir to the estate when Carl died two years later. Oscar remarried to Blanche Austin in 1920. Blanche was born in 1883 in Lenoir, North Carolina, and had been teaching in the Charlotte public schools. She moved into the Providence Road home following their honeymoon, and would remain there until her death in 1982. Oscar and Blanche also had two children, Austin Cole (1921-2006), and Blanche Hegmann, born in 1923. Blanche Austin too became a well-known member in the community, belonging to and dedicated a great deal of her time and energy to a variety of local organizations.

In 1924, Frank Ramsay Thies married Eleanore Arhelger (1901-1983) of Fredericksburg, Texas, and they too moved into the home on Providence Road. By the late 1920s, Frank began his career in real estate and mortgage banking. In 1929, their son, Frank Ramsay, Jr. was born, and they moved out on their own two year later. A few years later in 1936, the Thies-Smith Realty Company became the Thies Realty and Mortgage Company. Oscar's health began to fail in the late 1930s-early 1940s. He died in 1943, and Frank became President of Thies Realty. His family moved back in to the Providence home with Oscar's widow, Blanche. She died in 1982, followed by Eleanore

in 1983. The Providence Road home was eventually donated to Trinity Presbyterian Church. Frank Sr. died in 2002.

Frank Jr. graduated from Central High School, went on to graduate from Davidson College, and received his Master of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Following his military service during the Korean War, he joined his father at Thies Realty, and later succeeded him as President of the company. He was also a founder of Charlotte Latin School, Southeastern Savings Bank, and a founding director of The Scottish Bank. Frank Jr. married Janet Rich (1935-2008) in 1958, and they had five children: Frank Ramsay, III, Mary Janet, F. Boyce, J. Lawton, and Charles Rich. Frank Jr. died in 2012.

Thies Realty is still a family-owned business, and it is located at 119 Huntley Place in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## REFERENCES

Blanche Austin Thies, Carl Adolf Thies, Eleanore Arhelger Thies, Frank Ramsay Thies, Mathilde Frederica Hegmann Thies, Oscar Julius Thies, Virginia Juanita "Nettie" McNinch Thies, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>

Morrill, Dan L. *The Thies House*. 1998.

<http://www.cmhpf.org/S&Rs%20Alphabetical%20Order/surveys&rthieshse.htm>

## RELATED MATERIALS

*Historic Buildings—Thies (Carl A.) House*. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

*Historic Buildings—Thies (Oscar) Automobile Sales Building*. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

*Thies Family*. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Thies Realty Collection encompasses the years 1981-1995. The collection consists of maps and microfiche. Series included are Publications, Tax Line Maps, and Microfiche.

**Publications, 1988**, consists of a single booklet.

**Tax Line Maps, undated**, comprise loose maps that may be revised items from earlier editions. Maps are from Index book 1-231.

**Microfiche, 1981-1995**, contain various realty information from properties in Mecklenburg County. Films are listed by year, followed by the indexes: land and use, property owner's name, property index, street index, and tax roll.

## **SERIES LIST**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER</b>
<b>Collection Container List</b>	1	1
<b>Publications, 1988</b>		
<i>Charlotte, Patterns &amp; Trends of a Dynamic City, 1988</i>	1	2
<b>Tax Line Maps, undated</b>		
Index Books		
1-20	1	3
21-39	1	4
41-59	1	5
61-80	1	6
81-99	1	7
101-119	1	8
121-139	2	1
141-159	2	2
161-179	2	3
181-199	2	4
201-219	2	5
221-231	2	6
<b>Microfiche, 1981-1995</b>		
1981		
Owner's Name	3	1
Property Index	3	2
Tax Roll	3	3
1984		
Owner's Name	3	4
Property Index	3	5
Street Index	3	6
Tax Roll	3	7
1985		
Owner's Name	3	8

Property Index	3	9
Street Index	3	10
Tax Roll	3	11
1986		
Owner's Name	4	1
Property Index	4	2
Street Index	4	3
Tax Roll	4	4
1987		
Owner's Name	4	5
Property Index	4	6
Street Index	4	7
Tax Roll	4	8
1988		
Owner's Name	4	9
Property Index	4	10
Street Index	4	11
Tax Roll	5	1
1989		
Land and Use	5	2
Owner's Name	5	3
Street Index	5	4
Tax Roll	5	5
1991		
Land and Use	5	6
Owner's Name	5	7
Street Index	5	8
Tax Roll	5	9
1993		
Land and Use	6	1
Owner's Name	6	2
Street Index	6	3
Tax Roll	6	4
1995		
Land and Use	6	5
Owner's Name	6	6
Street Index	6	7
Tax Roll	6	8