

A Room of Her Own

Barbara Hodgson's special room evokes both history and the spirit of Christmas.

We call it a snugery," says Barbara Hodgson about the small library-type room that's her favorite in her Asheville home. The amusing yet apt description for the 9- x 11-foot room came from a British friend.

Built in 1917 as "a cottage for the Honorable William Jennings Bryan" and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the home is "an unfinished symphony," says Barbara. In a former life, the snugery served as a porch. When Barbara and husband Dennis enclosed the room, they used cherry milled from a diseased tree on the property.

"I mourned the loss of an original tree that was planted in the garden during Bryan's time here, possibly by the

hands of 'the great commoner,'" says Barbara, an avid preservationist. "But then I realized [the tree] could be saved by changing form and becoming a permanent part of the 'music' of this historic home."

At Christmas, Barbara displays more than 20 trees and often hosts tours benefiting such notable area organizations as the Asheville Community Theatre, the Asheville Symphony, and Riverlink, an environmental group. In the snugery, a small tree with the theme "Christmas in my heart" has a special place. Decked in hearts and family pictures, the tree "symbolizes my belief that we should keep the gentle season of Christmas in our hearts all year long," says Barbara. *Nancy Dorman-Hickson*



My family is my most treasured "collectible."

Barbara Hodgson, with grandson Jack



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