

Holiday Home Tour  
Louisville, Colorado  
December 2, 2006

## **401 Roosevelt Avenue**

The house at 401 Roosevelt was built in 1905 and is part of the “Kimberly Addition,” a historic Louisville subdivision. The home’s residents from the early 1900s to the 1950s were James and Frona Wardle.

### **The Kimberly Addition**

The Kimberly Addition was named for George Kimber by his children and stepchildren, who platted and recorded the subdivision in 1911 out of land that George Kimber acquired when he and his family first arrived in Louisville in the 1890s. Today, the Kimberly Addition includes about twenty homes that are located on Mead Street, West Street, and the western side of Roosevelt between Mead and West. Half of these twenty houses were built in the early part of the 1900s. The Kimberly Addition was informally called “Kimbertown” by Louisville residents.

### **The Kimber/Wardle Family**

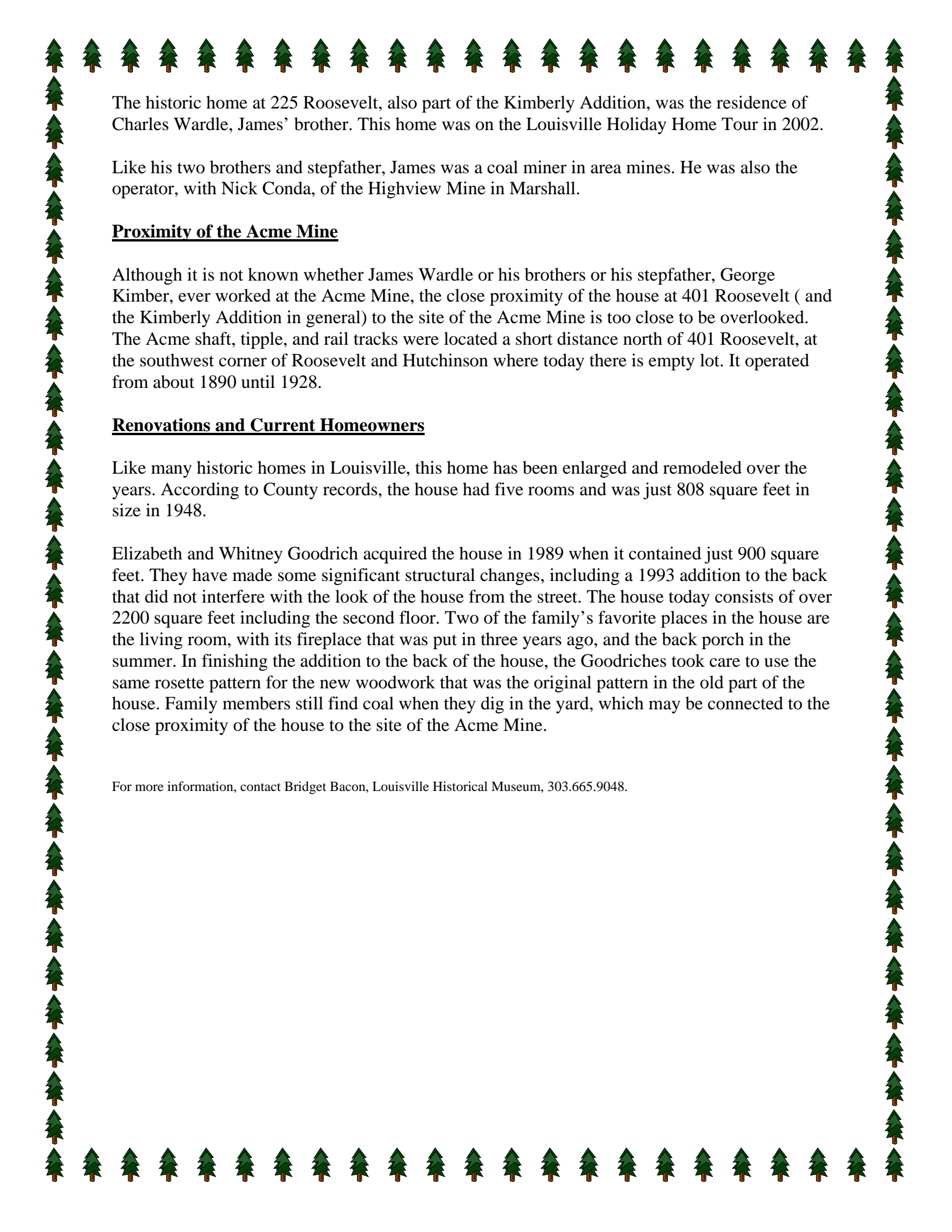
George Kimber originally came from Cornwall in England. In about 1884, he married Charlotte Wardle in Yorkshire. She is known to have had five children with James Wardle and evidently had been widowed. Charlotte had at least four more children with her second husband, George Kimber. The family then moved to an area known for coal mining in the north of England. According to an 1891 census, the Kimber/Wardle family was living on “Coffee Pot Row” at Trimdon Colliery in County Durham. George was a coal miner; “colliery” refers to a coal mine.

The Kimber/Wardle family emigrated to the U.S. in 1893. The children who are known to have come to Louisville were Arthur, Charles, and James Wardle, and Rebecca, Charlotte, Marie, and Polly Kimber. The first evidence of the family’s presence in Louisville came in 1894. They were likely attracted by the availability of jobs for coal miners.

### **James and Frona Wardle**

James Wardle, who was about 15 years old when his family emigrated, married Frona Youk of Louisville in 1901 when he was about 23 and she was about 21. Her parents, Joseph and Barbara Youk, had emigrated from Austria in 1880 and had come directly to Louisville, making them among Louisville’s earliest residents. Frona’s father was a coal miner and coal mine owner.

Based on County records, it is believed that James was the owner who built the house at 401 Roosevelt when it was constructed in 1905. James lived in it until he died in 1951, and Frona continued to reside there until her death in 1956. They are believed to have not had any children.



The historic home at 225 Roosevelt, also part of the Kimberly Addition, was the residence of Charles Wardle, James' brother. This home was on the Louisville Holiday Home Tour in 2002.

Like his two brothers and stepfather, James was a coal miner in area mines. He was also the operator, with Nick Conda, of the Highview Mine in Marshall.

### **Proximity of the Acme Mine**

Although it is not known whether James Wardle or his brothers or his stepfather, George Kimber, ever worked at the Acme Mine, the close proximity of the house at 401 Roosevelt ( and the Kimberly Addition in general) to the site of the Acme Mine is too close to be overlooked. The Acme shaft, tipple, and rail tracks were located a short distance north of 401 Roosevelt, at the southwest corner of Roosevelt and Hutchinson where today there is empty lot. It operated from about 1890 until 1928.

### **Renovations and Current Homeowners**

Like many historic homes in Louisville, this home has been enlarged and remodeled over the years. According to County records, the house had five rooms and was just 808 square feet in size in 1948.

Elizabeth and Whitney Goodrich acquired the house in 1989 when it contained just 900 square feet. They have made some significant structural changes, including a 1993 addition to the back that did not interfere with the look of the house from the street. The house today consists of over 2200 square feet including the second floor. Two of the family's favorite places in the house are the living room, with its fireplace that was put in three years ago, and the back porch in the summer. In finishing the addition to the back of the house, the Goodriches took care to use the same rosette pattern for the new woodwork that was the original pattern in the old part of the house. Family members still find coal when they dig in the yard, which may be connected to the close proximity of the house to the site of the Acme Mine.

For more information, contact Bridget Bacon, Louisville Historical Museum, 303.665.9048.